

Hafa Adai!

**\$2,500 bail for man accused of breaking into his ex's home. PAGE 2**  
**Macaranas to retire after serving DPS for 35 years. PAGE 3**

**\$1**

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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**WITH AS LITO SITE BEING DEVELOPED**

## SCA gets temporary reprieve

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
 joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
 REPORTER

With help from Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Saipan Cares for Animals is being allowed to stay at its As Gonno location while its future location in As Lito is being developed. From now until then, SCA director Beth Pliscou assures that SCA's pet clinic services will not close.

These were all learned during a phone interview with Pliscou yesterday, who shared that a meeting between her, Torres, Division of Fish and Wildlife director Manny Pangelinan, and an official from the Commonwealth Zoning Board took place yesterday.

Pliscou said that, according to DFW, one concern the agency had with SCA's future As Lito property was the presence of a pet clinic.

See SCA on Page 1

### AT A GLANCE

As of 6:04pm, Jan. 25, 2022  
**VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI**

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **98.7%**

Days since last community transmission **2**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	37,521
Fully Vaccinated:	36,287
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,315
Fully Vaccinated:	5,141
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,119

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	27,869	759	28,628
Recovered	19,525	2,721	22,246
Active	5,341	759	6,100
Deaths	280	2	282

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	4,246	19	4,265
Traced via Travel Screening	487	9	496
Traced via Community Screening	3,759	10	3,769
Deaths	22	0	22

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., <https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/>

## Air Busan makes first flight to Saipan

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
 kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
 REPORTER

The inaugural flight of Air Busan to Saipan took place last Sunday and marks what is

hoped to be the start of a long and successful relationship between the CNMI and the airline.

Air Busan, a budget carrier unit of Asiana Airlines Inc.,

See AIR on Page 4

### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

19 new cases, 4 ID'd on Rota

» **6 COVID-related fatalities in Guam**

Nineteen additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 4,265 cases since March 26, 2020, according to a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. news release

See 19 on Page 4



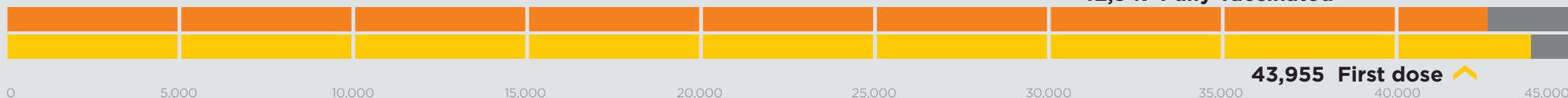
### FIRST AID TRAINING

Dr. Todd Miner, left, of the University of Colorado shows participants how to properly do a log roll during a Disaster Response Advanced First Aid Training that is being done to prepare first responders and citizens to identify and respond to disaster-caused common first aid, emergency, and serious medical situations. A second session will be held from Feb. 14 to 16, and is open to the general public. Story on Page 7

NMC

### CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

42,547 Fully vaccinated



43,955 First dose

Source: [vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/](https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/)

### INSIDE



#### BUSINESS

COVID-19 antibody drugs from Regeneron and Eli Lilly should no longer be used.

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#### NATION

The Pentagon orders 8,500 troops on higher alert to potentially deploy to Europe.

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#### WORLD

A U.S. Navy jet crashes while trying to land on the deck of an American aircraft carrier.

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## TRUSTED LEADERSHIP

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CORDIALLY INVITES THE COMMUNITY TO ATTEND OUR GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022 AT THE GARAPAN FISHING BASE 4:00 PM - ROADSIDE WAVING, 4:45 PM - KICK-OFF TINA SABLAN AND LEILA STAFFLER FOR YOU IN 2022!





# Local

## \$2,500 bail for man accused of breaking into his ex's home

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI Superior Court has imposed a \$2,500 cash bail on a man who is accused of breaking into his former girlfriend's house to cook some food.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho

imposed a \$2,500 cash bail on Zachary P. Manglona last Friday for allegedly breaking into his ex-girlfriend's home on Tinian.

Manglona, 22, is charged with disturbing the peace domestic violence, vandalism, unlawful contact, contempt of court, and violating an order of

protection.

The court ordered Manglona to return to court on Jan. 31, at 9am after he waived his preliminary hearing.

According to court documents, at around 11:51pm last Jan. 15, the victim called the Department of Public Safety after Manglona allegedly forced

himself into her home while she and her children were asleep.

At the scene, police found Manglona in the kitchen and, before walking out he said "I didn't hit or touch her," the police report states.

After placing Manglona in a squad car, the victim told police that she was asleep in her bedroom with her children when she heard noises coming from the kitchen that sounded like someone was breaking in.

A few seconds later, the victim said she could hear the per-

son, later identified as Manglona, breaking into her bedroom.

When he was inside, Manglona allegedly begged the victim not to call the police before going back to the kitchen to cook some food.

The victim also noted to police that back in October 2021, she took out a temporary restraining order against Manglona in another case assault and battery domestic violence.

However, in late November to beginning of December, the victim said she and Manglona

decided to work on their relationship and started seeing each other again.

Then, on Jan. 17 or 18, while Manglona was at her house, the victim said a child tax check worth \$600 went missing and when she asked Manglona if he took it, he denied it and even offered to help her find it when she returns home from dropping her child in school.

When she returned home, the victim said Manglona had already left and she had not heard from him until the break in.

## Saipan-Tinian ferry available for Tinian Hot Pepper Festival

The Marianas Visitors Authority will offer ferry service between Tinian and Saipan for the 18th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 18-20, 2022.

The festival, more popularly known as "Pika Fest" among locals ("pika" means spicy), pays homage to Tinian's small but famous "donne sali" hot pepper and includes a full weekend of activities, including food sales, live entertainment, competitions, arts and crafts sales, and more.

The ferry schedule is: Feb. 18, departing Saipan at 5pm (reserved for 50K Pika Bike Race participants with proof of registration) and departing Tinian at 9pm; Feb. 19, departing Saipan at 8am and 4pm and departing Tinian at 12pm (reserved for Pika Bike Race participants) and 8pm; Feb. 20, departing Saipan at 8am and departing Tinian at

6pm; and Feb. 21, departing Saipan at 8am and departing Tinian at 5pm.

The *Super Emerald* ferry will depart from the Commonwealth Ports Authority dock in Lower Base, passengers and must check in one hour before departure. Thirty-five passengers are allowed per ferry, and household pets are also allowed.

Ferry round trip cost is \$15 for ages 3-11, \$30 for ages 12 and older, and free for children ages 0-2. For one way, the cost is \$10 for ages 3-11, \$18 for ages 12 and older, and free for children ages 0-2. Advance ticket purchase is required and will be accommodated on a first come, first served basis. Ticket purchases may be made at the MVA Office on Tinian or Saipan. Cash payments only will be accepted.

"To attract more visitors in support of the Tinian com-

munity and economy, we are bringing back ferry service again this year to make it possible for bikers to attend and to provide everyone another opportunity to get there, in addition to the commuter flights," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo.

See **FESTIVAL** on Page 4

## Saipan son graduates from USCG training

Saipan son and Kagman High School alumnus Seaman Andrew Anthony Q. Camacho recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center Cape May.

In an email Monday from Camacho's grandfather, Juan L. Babauta, it was learned that Camacho graduated on Jan. 21, 2022, at the USCG Training Center Cape May, located in Cape May County, New Jersey.

Currently, Camacho is visiting family in Sacramento, California before heading to his official Coast Guard assignment in Seward, Alaska, the email said.

Camacho is the son of Lee Andy and Jennifer Q. Camacho. (*Joshua Santos*)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seaman Andrew Anthony Q. Camacho is flanked by U.S. Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer II Benedict Q. Lizama and his wife, Christina, soon after Camacho graduated at the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center in Cape May, New Jersey on Jan. 21, 2022.

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# Macaranas to retire after serving DPS for 35 years

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Assistant Chief of Police Anthony Iglecias Macaranas is retiring this Monday after serving the Department of Public Safety for 35 years.

In line with this, Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) has introduced Senate Resolution 22-15 to commend the 54-year-old Macaranas for his meritorious commitment to serve as a distinguished police officer in the CNMI and for his sacrifice for the country as a member of the U.S. Army.

Cruz stated in the resolution that Macaranas performed his duties as a law enforcement officer "with the utmost skill, dedication, and bravery and now leaves a footprint for current and future law enforcement officers to follow and uphold."

Cruz said the Senate joins

the people of the CNMI in recognizing and commending the assistant chief of police for serving as a law enforcement officer "with courage and gallantry, and for his patriotic service and sacrifice for the nation as a member of the United States Army."

According to the resolution, Macaranas became a police officer upon graduating from Marianas High School in June 1986 when he was hired as police recruit in September 1986. He joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Police Training Academy at the Northern Marianas College and graduated in July 1987.

From a police recruit in 1986 and police officer 1 in July 1987 to April 1989, Macaranas rose through the ranks and is now the assistant chief of police upon his retirement this Monday.

While earning these ranks, he was assigned to various

duties such as at the Division of Corrections, DPS Police Academy, Patrol Section, Traffic Section, Highway Patrol Section, and Explosive Response Team/Special Enforcement Action Section.

Macaranas' other duties include being the drill instructor for the 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> Police Training Cycles in 2003, 2010, and 2016. He also served as the commander of the DPS Ceremonial Unit.

He has been involved in



Macaranas

many tactical trainings, which include Police Sniper Course at the Government Training Institute in Boise, Idaho; Explosive Breaching for Law Enforcement Tactical Operations, the Prevention of and

Response to Suicide Bombing Incidents as well as the Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings Training at New Mexico Tech; the Department of Homeland Security Basic SWAT School; the Federal Bureau of Investigation

Explosive Unit Post-Blast Workshop; and the Unexploded Ordnance Technician Training Course.

Macaranas enhanced his expertise by attending various trainings at the Institute of Police Technology and Management and at the San Bernardino Sheriff's EVOC Training Center.

He became a member of the Tactical Response Enforcement Team and the Explosives Response Team under the Special Enforcement Actions Section.

Macaranas enlisted in the

U.S. Army, serving under the Echo Company, 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry and attended the U.S. Army Infantryman School in Fort Benning, Georgia in October 1999 through March 2000. He was deployed to Iraq in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom III from August 2004 through January 2006.

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## SHRM meeting today

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will host a general membership meeting at the Regency Saipan Ballroom today, Jan. 26, 2022, starting at 11:15am. Doors will open at 10:30 AM.

This meeting will feature presentations regarding COVID-19 updates on community-based testing, vaccinations and booster vaccinations, and OSHA law updates.

The presenters are:

■ Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.: public information officer Guillermo Cruz Lifofoi and Heather S. Pangelinan, director of Popula-

tion Health Services

■ CNMI Department of Labor – Occupational Safety & Health Administration: Project manager Timothy Asaivao

This meeting will also feature the induction of the 2022 SHRM CNMI board. The oath will be administered by SHRM CNMI Chapter co-founder Josephine Mesta.

This meeting includes lunch. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Roman Tudela at roman.tudela@marianas.edu or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com. Pricing is \$25 for SHRM members and \$35 for non-members. (PR)

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**INVITATION TO BID  
ITB22-GOV-42200039**

**SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM February 18, 2022**

**DOC FIRE ALARM & SPRINKLER  
SYSTEM REPAIR/REPLACEMENT**

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are soliciting sealed bids for the *DOC Fire Alarm & Sprinkler System Repair/Replacement* Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only on **January 19, 2022** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours. **This project will require US Treasury Listed Payment and Performance Bonds.**

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the project site, Marpi, Saipan, CNMI at **10:00 AM ChST February 3, 2022**. Proposers may request to participate via phone call or virtually five (5) days prior to the meeting scheduled. All attendees are required to use a face mask and exercise social distancing throughout the duration of the meeting.

Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to Ms. Nerissa Benavente at nerissa.benavente@gov.mp no later than **4:30 PM ChST February 8, 2022**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Director of Procurement Services no later than **9:30 AM February 18, 2022**.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **Ralph DLG. Torres**  
Governor, CNMI

/S/ **Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director**  
CNMI Procurement Services



# TurnKey Solutions, E-Land Group donate to Red Cross gala

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

TurnKey Solutions and E-Land Group both made donations for the American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter's "Red Cross Gala" on Feb. 26.

TurnKey Solutions presented the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter with a \$3,500 check yesterday morning at the TurnKey office in Garapan.

This was followed in the afternoon by E-Land Group, which donated \$2,500 to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter for its upcoming gala during a check presentation by the pool at Coral Ocean Resort Saipan.

In a previous interview with

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, he said the Feb. 26 dinner event at Kensington Hotel Saipan will be a celebration of "hometown heroes," from firefighters to anyone in the CNMI who has worked in customer service since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For those interested in sponsoring the event and having tables/seats at the gala, the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter asks you to email American Red Cross-NMI Chapter board chair Mable Glenn at mable.glenn@redcross.org or call the NMI Chapter office at 670-234-3459.

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter representatives who were present at both check



JOSHUA SANTOS

TurnKey Solutions staff share a photo with representatives of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter after the consulting firm donated \$3,500 for the chapter's Feb. 26 "Red Cross Gala."

handoffs included Hirsh; Glenn; co-chairs Dr. Bobby Cruz; board member Brent

Deleon Guerrero; and business operations coordinator Selmalyn Taitano.



JOSHUA SANTOS

E-Land Group and American Red Cross-NMI Chapter representatives share a photo poolside at Coral Ocean Resort Saipan yesterday. Lindsay Ahn, who is corporate social responsibility manager for E-Land Group, told Saipan Tribune that E-Land donated \$2,500 for the chapter's Feb. 26 "Red Cross Gala."

## 19

From Page 1

on Monday night.

In Guam, the Joint Information Center reported a combined six new COVID-19-related fatalities.

Of the 19 cases identified in the CNMI on Jan. 23, 2022, four were identified via contact tracing, six via community testing, and nine via travel testing. The vaccination statuses of the 19 cases identified are pending verification.

Separately, a Rota Health Center news release said that four additional individuals have tested positive for COVID-19 on Rota.

The four were confirmed positive for COVID-19 via travel testing and community-based testing at the Rota Health Center, bringing the total to 12 on Rota, the news release stated. It added that a total of 33 close contacts were identified and all tested negative for COVID-19. The RHC conducted 49 PCR tests on Jan. 24, 2022.

It was not immediately learned if the four cases on

Rota are part of the 19 new cases identified in the CNMI.

As of Jan. 24, 2022, six individuals are hospitalized as a result of COVID-19, with three of them unvaccinated, two vaccinated, and one who is partially vaccinated. Two of the six are on a ventilator.

The CHCC encourages anyone to seek care or test early if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, as you may be eligible for monoclonal antibodies or other new treatment that are given soon after infection.

The CHCC also continues to encourage the community to get vaccinated if they have not done so, or get their booster shot if they are eligible to help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, or death.

A total of 181 COVID-19 vaccine shots were administered on Jan. 24, 2022, resulting in 98.7% of the CNMI's eligible population being fully vaccinated, which affords the community more protection against severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

A total of 216 COVID-19 tests were conducted on Jan. 23, 2022: 162 via community-based testing; 48 at the COVID-19 Community Center (referrals only); and six at the Tinian Health Center.

Of the total number of cases identified in the CNMI, as of Jan. 23, 2022, there have already been 3,848 recoveries, 395 active cases, and 22 COVID-19-related deaths.

In Guam, the JIC first reported four COVID-related fatalities on Monday night, followed by two more fatalities reported last night.

The 277th COVID-19 related fatality occurred at the Guam Memorial Hospital on Jan. 22, 2022. The patient was a 98-year old male, partially vaccinated, with underlying health conditions. He tested positive on Jan. 19, 2022.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## AIR

From Page 1

began its first of six scheduled charter flights. According to South Korean media, Air Busan currently only offers flights on two international routes: from the southern port city of Busan to Qingdao in China, and from Busan to Saipan.

It was learned that the airline previously provided a Busan-Guam flight but has dropped Guam after establishing a charter with Saipan pursuant to the travel bubble arrangement the CNMI has with South Korea.

In a short statement from Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla Iakopo, she said this first flight is a great opportunity for the CNMI to gain a Busan market. For years, a large chunk of the CNMI's South Korean market has come from Incheon.

"The decision to jumpstart the Busan market, a major source city in Korea, is a great

opportunity for the Marianas. Bringing in Air Busan will also give us an opportunity to introduce this new airline to our destination and convince them that the Marianas would be more desirable for travelers compared to other beach resort destinations they now serve," she said.

Commonwealth Ports Authority chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said that, although Air Busan is currently servicing the CNMI on a charter basis, the hope is that a demand for a Busan-Saipan route is established so that Air Busan will continue with regular scheduled flights.

"Tourism is our primary economic engine. While Air Busan is only a charter, we hope that there is enough interest in the CNMI to support scheduled flights. Tourism is the CNMI's bread and butter. I am grateful for all the effort that so many people are putting into finding a way to get our tourism industry back to normal. I especially want to congratulate

all those involved to make the Air Busan charter flights possible," King-Hinds said.

During a board meeting last week, majority of the Marianas Visitors Authority board voted in favor of subsidizing six Air Busan charter flights starting Jan. 23 in partnership with Micronesia Resort Inc.

Micronesia Resort Inc. operates the Kensington Hotel Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Resort Saipan.

The next Air Busan flight is expected on Jan. 30. There will also be four Air Busan charters flying into the CNMI on Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27 under this agreement.

Based on the proposal presented to the board, Air Busan passengers will receive incentives such as travel bucks that will go directly to the passenger.

In addition, MVA will also provide a \$10,000 subsidy per flight that will go to directly to MRI who is essentially spearheading the charter.

## FESTIVAL

From Page 2

"We are looking forward to another great festival and encourage everyone not to miss the soft opening on Friday night this year."

The festival will have a soft opening at 6pm on Feb. 18 at the Fiesta Grounds in San Jose, Tinian, adjacent to Jones Beach. On Feb. 19 and 20, live entertainment and competitions will begin at 5pm.

The 50K Pika Bike Race will begin at 6am on Feb. 19 at the Fiesta Grounds. Registration is \$40. Registration forms and payment may be submitted at The Bike Shop in Courtney's Plaza on Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

Hotel accommodations are available at Tinian Ocean View, Tinian Diamond Hotel, Lorynn's Hotel, Tinian Street Motel, Fleming Hotel, Green Lion House Hotel, and the Marpo Valley Inn, and Western Lodge. Free camping is available at Kammer Beach, Taga Beach (toilets, barbecue pits, and outdoor showers available) and at the adjacent Tachogna Beach (barbecue pits, indoor showers, and toilets are available).

For more information, contact Tinian field operations supervisor Vida Borja at 1 (670) 433-9365 or e-mail at vborsa@mymarianas.com or MVA community projects specialist Jack Aranda at 1 (670) 664-3200 or email jaranda@mymarianas.com. (MVA)

## SCA

From Page 1

ence of endangered birds on the land. She said she will be in close contact with DFW to get them the information about the land they need.

Once this information is given, DFW within 30 days will be fencing off the portion of land where these endangered birds are living on. After these 30 days, talks will begin on the development of the land, the building of water, power, and sewage systems, and the building of the SCA facility itself.

Pliscou added that the As Lito property that SCA had secured a lease for is quite large, and that there will be ample space for SCA's future shelter and clinic even after DFW's fencing.

From now until then, Pliscou said that Torres permitted

SCA to remain at its current As Gonno site in the interim.

"The governor has assured us that it won't be a problem for us to stay where we are as we build over there. ...We're good to stay where we are ...and we're going to start building as soon as possible," she said.

As for current updates on SCA's clinic services, Pliscou said a new shipment of the dewormer Bravecto should be on its way, shipping times permitting. Pliscou added that, through American Rescue Plan Act funding given to SCA, one idea is to use the funding as a way to keep the pet clinic stocked and open.

In a Jan. 24 press release expressing his support and gratitude for SCA, Torres wrote that his office will ensure that SCA receives its \$300,000 share of ARPA non-profit organization funding, plus "any additional support

they may need."

Pliscou said, however, that the ARPA funds can not be used to pay for construction and materials. She said that SCA will have to raise funds for these costs, but said she is "optimistic that will come together."

As for updates on SCA's sheltered animals that need adoption, although there is now no need to adopt off more than a hundred animals by Jan. 31, adopting animals is still very much appreciated and will make SCA's future move to its As Lito site much easier.

"We had this countdown going because we really thought we had to [adopt off all of] them by the 31st. ...But of course it would be really helpful if we didn't have to move so many animals to the new place," she added.

Pliscou noted that many have visited SCA to adopt

animals as of late, which she said was "just awesome." She added that young adult dogs were getting adopted as well, not only just puppies.

As of 5:45pm of Jan. 25, the change.org petition calling for the Zoning Board to grant SCA an extension has garnered more than 6,300 signatures. A GoFundMe page for SCA that was created on Jan. 21 has thus far raised \$3,207.

A link to the petition can be found at <https://chnng.it/TrDYryFYtQ>.

A link to the GoFundMe can be found at <https://gofund.me/0541868b>.

Briefly giving comments on the large amount of community support, Pliscou said in a text message yesterday to *Saipan Tribune*, "We all at Saipan Cares are very grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support from the community! We and the animals thank you!"



If you tested **positive** on any FDA-approved at-home test kit



Call CHCC contact tracers for next steps

**(670) 286-1710 (670) 285-1942**  
**(670) 286-1711 (670) 287-1652**  
**(670) 287-1683**

**REMINDER:** If you are experiencing severe symptoms of COVID-19, call **911**. Severe symptoms include: trouble breathing; persistent pain or pressure in the chest; new confusion; inability to wake or stay awake; pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone.

If you are concerned that you may have come in **contact with someone who tested positive**



Call CHCC contact tracers for next steps

**(670) 286-1710 (670) 285-1942**  
**(670) 286-1711 (670) 287-1652**  
**(670) 287-1683**

**REMINDER:** Call the CHCC Tele-Triage line at **(670) 233-2067**, or get checked by a health care provider if you are experiencing symptoms.

How do I know if I am considered a high-risk contact to a COVID-19 positive case?



**High-risk contacts have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive case and**

- ✓ are living in the same household
- OR
- ✓ had face-to-face contact 15 minutes or more, within 6 feet of each other
- OR
- ✓ had direct physical contact with each other
- OR
- ✓ have been in a closed environment for more than 15 minutes, within 6 feet of each other
- OR
- ✓ had unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions (e.g. being coughed on)
- OR
- ✓ are traveling companions of the known case

Remember to always practice the 3 W's:

**Wear your mask, Wash your hands, Watch your distance**



## Live COVID-19 safe!



### GET VACCINATED!



Make sure everyone in your household who qualifies for a COVID-19 vaccination gets vaccinated, or gets a booster shot.

Register for a COVID-19 vaccine at [www.vaccinatecnmi.com](http://www.vaccinatecnmi.com), or walk in for a booster shot.

Learn more at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

### WEAR A MASK

Everyone 2 years or older who is not fully vaccinated should wear a mask in indoor public places.

If you are fully vaccinated, to **maximize protection** and prevent possibly spreading COVID-19 to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission.

Learn more at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).



### WASH YOUR HANDS

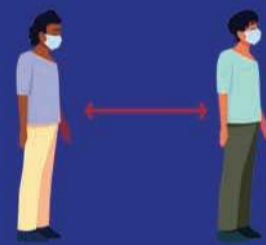
Wash your hands often with soap and water for **at least 20 seconds**, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Learn more at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).



### WATCH YOUR DISTANCE



Stay **6 feet away** from others, especially around individuals who are not in your household.

Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.

Learn more at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

### AVOID CROWDS AND POORLY VENTILATED SPACES



Being in crowded places like restaurants, bars, fitness centers, or movie theaters with other people puts you at higher risk for COVID-19.

Avoid indoor spaces that do not offer fresh air from the outdoors as much as possible.

Learn more at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

### GET TESTED IF YOU HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT OR FEEL SYMPTOMS

Testing can give you information about your risk of spreading COVID-19. While you wait for your test results, you should limit your contact with others as much as possible.



Register for free community-based testing at <https://covidtesting.chcc.health>

Learn more at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

### COVER COUGHS AND SNEEZES

- ✓ Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or use the inside of your elbow and do not spit.
- ✓ If you cough or sneeze into your mask, put on a new, clean mask as soon as possible and wash your hands.
- ✓ Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Learn more at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

### CLEAN AND DISINFECT

Clean high touch surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

If someone is sick or has tested positive for COVID-19, disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

Learn more at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).



### MONITOR YOUR HEALTH

Check daily for symptoms like fever, cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, or other symptoms of Covid-19.

Monitoring symptoms is especially important if you are running errands, going into the office or workplace, and in settings where it may be difficult to keep a physical distance of 6 feet.

Learn more at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).



**If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, see a medical provider as soon as possible**



@cnmichcc | [www.staysafecnmi.com/livecovidsafe](http://www.staysafecnmi.com/livecovidsafe)





## NMI students invited to participate in 9th Circuit civics contest

SAN FRANCISCO— High school students in the western United States and Pacific Islands, including the CNMI, are being invited to participate in the 2022 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest, with this year's theme focusing on "The First Amend-

ment and the Schoolhouse Gate: Students' Free Speech Rights."

This contest gives high school students in the western United States and Pacific Islands an opportunity to win cash prizes while learning about what part the federal

judiciary plays in safeguarding the rights of the American people guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution.

The contest asks students to address "What are students' free speech rights—and responsibilities—on and off campus?" Participants are asked to consider what rights the First Amendment provides to students engaging in free speech, both inside and outside of school. Participants also should consider the responsibilities, if any, that students, schools, or the government have with respect to speech by students, including whether it may cause harm to others.

The Ninth Circuit began accepting entries on Jan. 17, 2022.

The contest is open to students in grades 9-12 in public, private, parochial, charter schools, and home-schooled students of equivalent grade status. Students in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington state, Guam, and the CNMI may participate in the contest.

In addition to cash prizes, the first-place winners of the essay and video portion of the contest at the circuit level will be invited to attend the 2022 Ninth Circuit Judicial Confer-

ence in Big Sky, Montana. A total of \$11,400 in cash prizes will be awarded in the circuit-wide contest. The top three finishers in both the essay and video competitions will receive \$3,000 for first place, \$1,700 for second place and \$1,000 for third place. A commemorative prize also will be awarded to the top finishers at the circuit level. Many students also will have a chance to win cash prizes in local competitions sponsored by the individual judicial districts that will select their finalists

for the circuit-wide contest.

The contest is sponsored by the Ninth Circuit's Public Information and Community Outreach Committee, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the U.S. district and bankruptcy courts in the 15 judicial districts that comprise the Ninth Circuit.

For more information visit <https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest/>. Deadline to submit entries is 11:59pm Pacific Time on March 18, 2022. Finalists will be announced in May and the winners in June. (PR)

## FOMT welcomes opportunity to comment on Sanctuary nomination

Ocean advocates in the Marianas are welcoming an oppor-

tunity to provide comments on a review of the nomination for a national marine sanctuary in the Northern Mariana Islands.

"We have asked for a seat at the table when it comes to managing our natural resources," said Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan). "And this is the federal government inviting us to participate."

The Friends of the Mariana Trench have organized workshops and meetings to help the community be involved and have their voices heard. During this comment period the group is working with scientists and community members to provide updates to its nomination, which it first submitted in 2016.

For more information, email [info@friendsmarianatrench.org](mailto:info@friendsmarianatrench.org) or call (670) 483-3668. (PR)


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**


**INVITATION TO BID (ITB)**  
**ITB22-CHCC/CGC-SABG-008**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)**



**"PURCHASE OF VEHICLE"**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.


THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

**/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA**  
**CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**/S/ CORA P. ADA**  
**DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY**


**COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA)**  
 PO Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950  
 Tel. No. 670-234-6245 | Fax: 670-235-7147  
 Website: www.developcnmi.com
 

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**SILVER 2009 TOYOTA YARIS**



Slight damage from Typhoon Yutu | 4 cylinder | 4-door manual windows and locks | AM/FM radio and CD Player | 47,229 miles automatic | power steering and brakes | last serviced in 2019

**SOLD "AS IS" AND "WHERE IS"**

Visit our website at [www.developcnmi.com](http://www.developcnmi.com) for bid information and photos.

**SAIPAN**  
**CORAL OCEAN**  
**RESORT**









### Join Us... We're Hiring!!!

- Accounting Clerk
- Purchasing Clerk

Interested applicants may submit resume to [humanresources@cogrsaipan.com](mailto:humanresources@cogrsaipan.com) or may pick up an application form at our human resources office located in Koblerville (formerly known as Coral Ocean Point). Office hours from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except for holidays, contact no. (670) 234-7000.

All employment applications/resume must be received no later than February 05, 2022.

**YES, WE ARE OPEN!**


**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**  
**Office of the Executive Director**


**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
**CUC-IFB-22-013**

**Lower Base Sewer Phase 2 – Gravity Mains**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Lower Base Sewer Phase 2 – Gravity Mains in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of the installation of sewer gravity mains, manholes, sewer laterals and connections to the new sewer system, connection to the existing sewer on Isa Drive, concrete encasement of new sewer mains, utility crossings, restoration of site pavement, temporary soil erosion control, temporary traffic control, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer and water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

*The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.*

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 12, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies** of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-22-013, Lower Base Sewer Phase 2 – Gravity Mains**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 1, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one Hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 18, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address [nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org](mailto:nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org) and to Christie Sablan, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician – [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY P. CAMACHO**  
 Executive Director

**MANNY B. SABLAN**  
 Purchasing Administrator


**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**


**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
**CUC-IFB-22-015**

**SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT**

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of heavy equipment for its fleet in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**This project is funded from the United States Department of the Interior (US DOI), Office of the Insular Affairs (OIA).**

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-22-015, Supply and Delivery of Heavy Equipment**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 3, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 20, 2022**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with copies to Yvonne C. Ogumoro, CUC's Acting Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email at [yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org](mailto:yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org) and Christie L. Sablan, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY P. CAMACHO**  
 Executive Director

**MANNY B. SABLAN**  
 Purchasing Administrator



# First aid training as a tool to strengthen community resilience

Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services' Family, Community, and Youth Development program, in partnership with the University of Colorado School of Medicine, was recently awarded a \$47,000 grant from the National Hazard Center to strengthen community resilience in U.S. territories.

Through the leadership of principal investigator Dr. Todd Miner, the team will conduct a Disaster Response Advanced First Aid Training, which is a three-day training program that prepares first responders and local citizens to identify and respond to disaster-caused common first aid, emergency, and serious medical situations.

"We are excited to partner with CREES and the Natural Hazards Center to strengthen disaster response in the CNMI," said Miner, the director of Education and senior instructor for the University of Colorado School of Medicine-Department of Emergency Medicine, Wilderness Medicine Section.

"We know that immediate medical care after a disaster is key to saving lives and minimizing injuries, and that formal rescue can often be delayed," Miner said. "Teaching Disaster Response Advanced First



This training was made possible through the partnership with the Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services, University of Colorado, CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

Aid to local citizens and first responders will help develop more resilient communities."

In the span of six years, the CNMI has been impacted by two super typhoons and a global pandemic. The partnership with the University of Colorado School of Medicine will enhance existing response efforts during disasters. The training emphasizes preparation, prevention, assessment,

and treatment of injuries and trauma. The program aims to improve resiliency in the CNMI as the islands recover from the devastation wrought by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018, and to help prepare for future natural disasters.

This class is being offered as part of research studying the effectiveness of the DRAFA course in preparing community members to respond to

disaster-caused medical emergencies and thus to determine its effectiveness in creating more resilient communities, which will be instructed by the University of Colorado School of Medicine faculty. This training is designed for adult first responders, emergency medical services, disaster or health professionals, or students in EMS, nursing, or health-related fields.

"The FCYD team, through the leadership of Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, and our partners at CNMI Homeland Security and [Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services], continue to address community needs and build our CNMI capacity through this integrated research and training project," said Patricia Coleman, CREES interim dean.

Two classes will be offered.

The first class has already been conducted from Jan. 24 to 26, and was aimed for first responders. The second session will be held from Feb. 14 to 16, and is designed for the general public. The training, while covering a serious subject, is a mix of information, hands-on skills, and real-life practice which is open to anyone 18 years and older.

NMC CREES would like to thank their partners at the University of Colorado, CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and DFEMS for helping make this training possible.

NMC CREES provides research and technical advice in the fields of agriculture, aquaculture, natural resources, community and youth development, health, and nutrition that is locally sustainable, environmentally safe, and economically feasible, in order to enhance the well-being and improve the quality of life of the people living in the CNMI.

For more information about the DRAFA training, contact Belyeu-Camacho, at [tayna.belyeu-camacho@marianas.edu](mailto:tayna.belyeu-camacho@marianas.edu) or (670) 237-6841. Interested individuals who would like to participate in the February training can register at [bit.ly/FebDRAFA](http://bit.ly/FebDRAFA). (NMC)



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-22-005

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR LOWER BASE SEWER REPLACEMENT – PHASE II

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting a fee proposal from a professional archaeologist who meets the U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan to prepare information, data and documentation needed to conduct archaeological monitoring during construction of all areas identified by the CNMI HPO for the construction of a new sewer line on Rte. 314 – Lower Base Drive and Rte. 30 – Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval of the USEPA.**

The scope of Archaeological Services will include, but not be limited to:

1. Conduct background research to document the environmental and land-use histories of the project site.
2. Prepare a monitoring plan to the specifications of the Scope of Work and the guidelines for research designs.
3. Implement the monitoring plan activities following the approved plan.
4. Prepare an End of Fieldwork Letter that provides a general description of the project, work completed, burials recovered, sites and features identified.
5. Prepare a draft report summarizing the monitoring and data recovery activities & within six months of completing the fieldwork.
6. Prepare and submit, based on review comments, two final hard copies and one CD-ROM copy of the archaeological report to the HPO.
7. Prepare and submit revised CNMI Site Forms for previously recorded sites, as needed, and new site forms for all newly documented sites.
8. Submit all artifacts collected and pay all fees according to the Commonwealth Museum of History and Culture (CMHC) to the specifications of the current draft curation standards.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

**One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the PROPOSAL must be submitted in a SEALED ENVELOPE marked "CUC-RFP-22-005: Archaeological Services for Lower Base Sewer Replacement – Phase II" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than January 27, 2022, at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 12, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer, via email address [nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org](mailto:nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org) and Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Administrative Technician via email address [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-22-010

#### PROVISION OF OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE POWER PLANT AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ON THE ISLAND OF TINIAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the provision of operations, maintenance, and management services for the Power Plant and Distribution System on the Island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-010, Operations, Maintenance, and Management Services for The Power Plant and Distribution System on the island of Tinian" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 22, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

**Questions or requests for clarification** will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 1, 2022**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Marcela Tenorio at [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org), and Christie Sablan at [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## Make lockdowns a thing of history

**T**he pandemic has shed light on just how much authority the government can wield in the name of “keeping us safe.” Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer made full use of laws available to her to control our lives. The courts rightly keep putting checks on those powers.

With the midterms in sight, Whitmer has done her best to distance herself from the executive orders and health directives that ruled Michigan for a year and a half.

Since June, the governor has taken a hands-off approach to COVID-19, even as the state is battling its worst surge yet. That has helped boost her approval ratings.

Yet those who were most impacted by the shutdowns and health department orders—notably restaurants and other small businesses—haven’t forgotten the negative consequences and are still fighting back.

An Otsego County judge recently called into question the state’s epidemic powers that had been little used prior to COVID-19. Whitmer turned to this law in the fall of 2020, after the Michigan Supreme Court found the emergency powers law she had relied on for unilateral control to be unconstitutional. Under the guise of the health department, Whitmer was able to continue nearly the same orders she’d used before.

Judge Colin Hunter said this sweeping part of the public health law was unconstitutional. It had allowed the state to close schools and restaurants for weeks and put detailed rules in place restricting how we could gather and socialize.

One restaurant fought the fines it had incurred for disobeying the health order, leading to this ruling. The Iron Pig Smokehouse in Gaylord had continued to operate during the November 2020 shutdown—the “pause to save lives.”

Thousands of restaurants closed in Michigan as a result of the state’s various lockdowns and tight restrictions, and the industry remains hard hit. The overall economic impact was sizable, as studies have shown.

The state is appealing the opinion, saying it is still using the powers, albeit in a more limited fashion, and claiming the decision could cause “confusion.”

Similar to the rationale in the Supreme Court’s decision related to Whitmer’s emergency powers, this judge said the law usurped the Legislature’s power and that it had no clear time limits or guidelines.

Hunter also noted: “... the unexercised but available use of the director’s authority could conceivably reach and effect each and every political, social, moral or other societal problem if only the director determines that the concern can now be categorized as an ‘epidemic ...’”

Regardless of what Whitmer and others in her administration have said, her hands are not tied—even in light of this latest ruling—to issue additional emergency orders if she thought they were necessary. She could use the 1976 state emergency law that’s still on the books. Whitmer has avoided it throughout the pandemic, however, as it requires lawmaker support after 28 days.

See **LOCKDOWNS** on Next PageMARGULIES  
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### JAMES WEBB TELESCOPE



## A tale of presidential press conference secrets

**I**t had been months since the president’s last East Room press conference. And his team’s best and brightest understood that, just like sports stars, all-star political communicators can get rusty riding the bench, away from the game’s give-and-take.

This time they were determined to leave nothing to chance. Their president was sitting in the center of the Cabinet Room, awaiting his advisers’ tough rehearsal questions. They realized his last full-fledged press conference performance had been, well, a disaster—and pundits were opining that maybe their boss no longer deserved being called “The Great Communicator.”

And now you’re thinking “Great Communicator?” We can’t be talking about Joe Biden—can we? You’re right. We’re talking about Ronald Reagan and a rehearsal his advisers staged prior to an October 1981 prime time press conference.

Why? Because while you may have marveled at President Biden’s endurance during his almost-two-hour marathon press conference Wednesday, you surely were mystified by his Ukraine gaffe and other conflicting, rambling statements. It’s a bit of history you never knew, about how Reagan’s team helped him overcome his own first year political problems—and end up being re-elected by a landslide. It’s a tale about how Reagan’s advisers devised a secret press conference stratagem to help him when the going got tough. It may also help you weigh, with new perspective, both the shortcomings of Biden’s presidency and his common-man perseverance.

In 1981, Reagan’s advisers were worried because their president had gone four whole months without holding a full press conference. So Reagan and his advisers worked to make sure they had honed his answers for each issue to cover all of the essentials and communicate his message. Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes had the first question; communications adviser David Gergen had the next one. And Office of Management and Budget Director David Stockman and other insiders critiqued each of Reagan’s replies to assure that they were both correct and concise.

Biden, whom I’ve long known, has always had a lively mind that has a way of conveying his thoughts in precisely the order that they popped into his mind. When he walked into the East Room Wednesday afternoon, it had been a mind-boggling 10 months since his last formal press conference. When the second questioner asked whether he needs to be “more realistic and scale down” his sweeping Build Back Better social spending proposals, Biden quickly answered: “No, I don’t think so” and lengthily explained why. But when pressed, he reversed and said he’d at

**By MARTIN SCHRAM**  
Tribune News Service

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least enact “pieces—big chunks” of it, postponing the rest.

Inevitably, he was asked about what he and NATO will do if Russia’s Vladimir Putin invades Ukraine. Biden has repeatedly warned that if Putin’s troops invade, Russia will be hit with devastating sanctions and other responses. But this time he suddenly switched in mid-answer, saying: “It’s one thing if it’s a minor incursion and then we end up having a fight about what to do and not do, et cetera.” In Ukraine, officials texted reporters that they were “shocked” that Biden seemed to give Putin a green light for a lesser attack. And Biden’s team began texting to undo that snafu even as the boss was talking. And Thursday Biden had to speak anew, trying to unsay what he said.

**FLASHBACK:** At the end of their rehearsal press conference, Reagan’s team gifted their boss with a secret surprise. Speakes showed Reagan a press conference seating chart and told his president what to do if he ever got in any trouble because of a reporter’s pesky follow up questioning. Just turn to the right and call on someone else—because that’s where the staff has assigned seats to reporters they considered “known friends.”

In the real press conference, Reagan twice did just that. Once when ABC’s Sam Donaldson pressed him on whether he was seeking military superiority over the Soviets, Reagan turned to his right and called on someone who asked him if the U.S. could afford, in effect, both guns and butter. Later, Reagan averted another determined follow-up by turning right and calling on a reporter who asked what he thought about sometime visiting China.

**FAST-FORWARD:** On Wednesday, Biden apparently came armed with no such escape tool. He offered to extend his own press conference. Then he called on reporters he knew were from conservative media organizations. “Fire away,” Biden said. “Come on.”

One reporter asked why he was trying to “pull the country so far to the left.” Another asked about a poll that showed people doubted Biden was “mentally fit.” Biden laughed and replied: “Well, I’ll let you all make the judgment whether they’re correct.”



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## Why is the Dalai Lama so quiet on China?

**A**t 86, the Dalai Lama is beloved around the globe for his promotion of world peace, religious harmony and the need for climate action. But while the Western world protests China's human rights abuses, the Dalai Lama is eerily quiet. The spiritual leader of Tibet remains hopeful for a better future for Tibet with China.

International concerns that seem to harm China's global image are evident in the Women's Tennis Association's suspension of tournaments in China, the growing international boycott of diplomats to the Winter Olympics and bipartisan congressional letters sent to the Biden administration last December to reinvigorate dialogue over the autonomy of the Tibetan people.

Yet when the Dalai Lama was asked about the leadership of Chinese President Xi Jinping during a November talk organized by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, he said, "I do not have any comments. China is changing." When asked about the Winter Olympics, he skipped the question. He stressed that "as

a simple Buddhist monk, I don't want to be part of the political complication of China and Taiwan." He expressed his desire to perform a pilgrimage to Mount Wutai in China and meet old friends in the military and politics. His hesitancy to criticize Xi's government was most apparent. As critical voices grow toward China, why does the Dalai Lama abstain?

For more than 40 years, the Dalai Lama has sought to establish mutual ground with China to promote genuine autonomy for Tibetans in religion, education, language, environmentalism, economics and politics.

This history can be traced to when the Dalai Lama escaped to India after China took over Tibet in the 1950s. In his first autobiography, published in exile when he was 26 years old, he declared, "We Tibetans still have no feeling of hatred for the great Chinese people, although their representatives in Tibet have treated us so barbarously." However, in the early 1970s, he adopted the "Middle Way" approach, which prioritizes "genuine autonomy" for Tibet over independence.

In subsequent years, his Five Point Peace Plan in 1987, his Nobel Peace Prize speech in 1989 and his U.S. Congressional Gold Medal speech in 2007 reaffirmed his commitment to the Middle Way. As a result, Tibetan delegations visited China in the early 1980s and again in the 2000s, although they achieved far less than Tibetans had hoped for.

The Middle Way approach was already a compromise. But recently, the Dalai Lama has gone even further. In 1995, the child identified as the latest Tibetan Panchen Lama, the second most important leader of Tibetan Buddhism, was arrested by the Chinese government, which appointed its own Panchen Lama. In 2018, when the Dalai Lama was asked about the Chinese Panchen Lama, he suggested that, as there are Tibetan religious masters who have had three to five reincarnations in history, the Chinese Panchen Lama could well be an incarnation of the 10th Panchen Lama. This was a major shift as Tibetans and the international community were still rejecting the Chinese Panchen Lama's authority.

Offering a positive portrait of the Chinese Panchen Lama was a major historical concession. If another leader had done so, Tibetans and Buddhists around the globe would have expressed strong criticism. What further compromises should the Dalai Lama make?

China still doesn't take the Tibetan issue seriously, according to a government official's recent remarks on the Dalai

**By DHONDUP T. REKJONG**

Chicago Tribune



*Dhondup T. Rekjong is a Tibetan scholar and doctoral candidate in religious studies at Northwestern University.*

Lama. On Nov. 10, the spokesperson for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that "the door for dialogue is always open, but the dialogue should be about the Dalai Lama's personal future, not about the Tibet issue." This is an old line that China has repeated for decades. To Tibetans, it makes no sense. The Dalai Lama embodies Tibet. He is the only Dalai Lama who can transform the political fate of Tibet without much objection from Tibetans.

For the past several decades, Chinese leaders have been biding their time, waiting for his death. This strategy doesn't have any political vision. International leaders should not be deluded by it, either. If Tibetan issues are not resolved before the Dalai Lama's passing, relations between China and Tibet would likely fall into pandemonium. Having a Tibetan Dalai Lama and a Chinese Dalai Lama would make matters worse. I don't think China or Tibetans want anything like the Western Schism—the emergence of three rival popes—that occurred in Europe centuries ago.

Given the Dalai Lama's diplomatic silence over President Xi, the Winter Olympics and the Chinese control over Taiwan, he still seems to be hoping for a better future. However, he is getting old, and it is uncertain whether he can even travel to the Tibetan capital of Lhasa in future years because of his ill health. That is why even members of Congress urged President Joe Biden to visit the Dalai Lama in India if he is unable to travel.

If Chinese leaders refuse to negotiate with him or don't have the courage to address the Tibetan issue now, there will not be any better opportunities in the future. Indeed, China may never get such a chance again.

The Dalai Lama has never lost the compassion for China he voiced when he was 26 years old. But he cannot wait forever.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Questions for the Education commissioner

The Public School System has required all students to return from remote to in-person learning. There are legitimate health reasons to justify some students to continue remote learning.

This school year the CNMI PSS has been operating at half capacity and a shortened day. Presumably this was to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In the first week of December, PSS suspended their in-person learning and moved all students to remote learning coinciding with the governor's executive order to have non-essential government workers work from home.

In January, PSS discontinued remote learning and ordered all students back to in-person learning with 100% capacity and a longer school day. There are serious concerns for many where there are serious health issues in the home where in-person learning can impose a greater health risk to the student or family. Certainly, increased capacity and longer time in confined proximity with others increases the chance of COVID spread. PSS has provided an in-person learning waiver for students in such situations.

Due to a serious health complication in our home, we applied for this waiver and provided a letter from our physician stating the reason for the request, and his advice to keep our student from in-person learning. To our shock and dismay, our request was denied with no explanation.

I have reached out to the Education commissioner and got no response. I pose my questions to the CNMI Education commissioner in this public forum in hopes that I will receive a response.

1. With double occupancy and longer school days, in what ways are the public schools safer now than they were the first of December when in-person learning was discontinued? What advice and from what sources provided the guidance to implement this changed policy?

2. What is the process for PSS reviewing medical waiver requests, and are medical waiver requests being reviewed or decided upon by medical personnel? If so, who are PSS' medical advisors for medical waiver requests?

**Duane Benson**

Tanapag, Saipan

## LOCKDOWNS

From Page 8

This latest decision also comes shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Biden administration's vaccine mandate forced on large employers for its overreach.

The message from the courts is clear: Even during a pandemic, governors and presidents aren't dictators and must work with co-equal branches of government to take such sweeping actions.

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## Nation must protect voting rights

**I**t is no secret that our country has a troubled history with deciding who has the right to vote—and whose votes count.

While the Voting Rights Act, the law that prohibits the practice of racial discrimination in voting, was passed more than a half-century ago in 1965, we are still seeing deliberate and desperate attempts to restrict the freedom to vote in our country today.

In 2021, 19 states passed a total of 34 laws restricting the freedom to vote, according to the Brennan Center for Justice.

In Georgia, three months after Joe Biden was sworn in as president and the historic runoff elections of Sens. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff led to Democratic control of the U.S. Senate, state lawmakers passed a sweeping overhaul of the state's election law aimed at disenfranchising Black voters.

In Florida, even as Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis called the state's election process a "model for the rest of the nation," Republican state lawmakers enacted new laws that place restrictions on voting by mail and at drop boxes. Now, DeSantis is agitating for a new special police force tasked with harassing voters based on tips from government officials, including himself.

While these are just two examples of the many discriminatory voting laws enacted last year, they highlight why Congress must act quickly to head off this partisan attempt to deny people in the United States the freedom to vote.

But on Jan. 19, the U.S. Senate failed to protect our rights by refusing to pass the Freedom to Vote Act. In 2006, 17 Republicans voted to reauthorize the 1965 Voting Rights Act; the fact that they have since shifted their position shows us how much, in recent years, rightwing extremists have been able to politicize an issue as basic as our freedom to choose our political leaders.

As the national president of the American Federation of Gov-

**By EVERETT KELLEY**

Progressive Perspectives



*Dr. Everett Kelley is the national president of the American Federation of Government Employees.*

ernment Employees, the largest union representing more than 700,000 federal and Washington government workers, I urge Congress to take swift action to protect our basic freedoms. State leaders should not have the authority to deny certain people the right to vote because they are unhappy with the outcome of an election.

Every vote should count, and voters have a right to choose our political leaders, not the other way around. As I reminded lawmakers, public servants defend and advance this right every day.

While it took more than a century for women and people of color to be granted voting rights—and those opposed went to great lengths to keep it from happening—our country persevered. We kept about the work of making a more perfect union, of expanding freedom, liberty and justice.

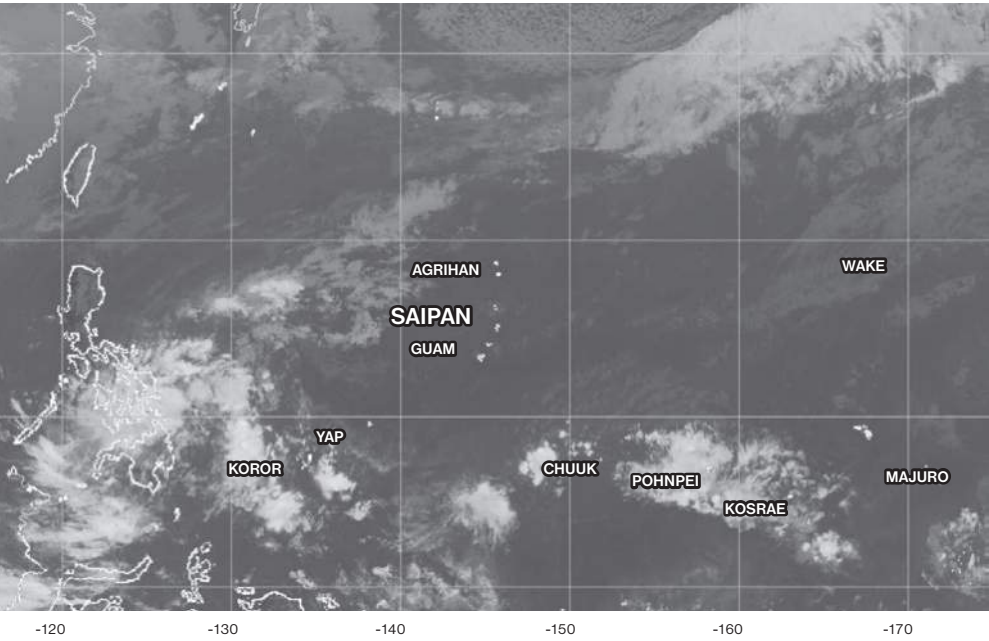
Today, we must continue in that tradition. We must continue to move forward, not backward, to ensure that all voters have an equal and fair opportunity to vote, regardless of where they live, the color of their skin or who they support at the ballot box.

The right to vote is a bedrock principle of democracy. If this Congress will not secure that right, then it is up to us to send Washington a new Congress that will.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers, east winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers, northeast winds 10 to 20 mph, lightest at night.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
85°	76°	78°	85	75°	86°	86°	78°	86°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 8:32 AM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Very little shower activity is seen on the morning satellite and Doppler radar imagery. Altimetry suggests seas have dropped into the 7 to 9 feet range, with the Ipan buoy showing a water temperature of 83 degrees.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

**T**he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

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MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	29 / 25 °F
Palau	Partly Cloudy	30 / 26 °F
Yap	PM Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Chuuk	AM Thunderstorms	29 / 27 °F
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	30 / 25 °F
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	30 / 27°F
Majuro	AM Thunderstorm	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:46 AM	18:12 PM
Wednesday	06:46 AM	18:12 PM
Thursday	06:46 AM	18:13 PM
Friday	06:46 AM	18:13 PM
Saturday	06:46 AM	18:14 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	00:28	12:22 PM	-
Wednesday	01:26	13:09 PM	-
Thursday	02:27	14:02 PM	-
Friday	03:32	15:01 AM	-
Saturday	04:38	16:05 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Thunderstorms	25 / 19 °F	
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	3 / -7 °F	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	20 / 17°F	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	26 / 20 °F	
London	Cloudy	7 / 5 °F	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	22 / 7 °F	
Manila	Thunderstorms	29 / 25°F	
Melbourne	PM Thunderstorms	34 / 23 °F	
Miami	Rain	25 / 18 °F	
New York	Sunny	-3 / -10°F	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	12 / 4 °F	
Paris	Cloudy	5 / 2 °F	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	11 / 0 °F	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	13 / 02 °F	
Salem	Sunny	13 / 0 °F	
San Francisco	Sunny	16 / 6 °F	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	3 / -8 °F	
Tokyo	AM Clouds/PM Sun	10 / 3 °F	
Washington, DC	Sunny	-1 / -8°F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
01:47 AM	High Tide	1.23	
07:13 AM	Low Tide	0.70	
1:27 PM	High Tide	1.72	
8:55 PM	Low Tide	0.05	

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 23 TO FEBRUARY 27, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
A117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6	UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7	UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1,3,5,7	PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	2,4,6,7
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184				UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 2) 3, 6	UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM		UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
				UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
				UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 2) 3, 6	C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	Every 4 (Jan 29-Mar 2) 6
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM		OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	6	X622	8:00AM	1:10PM	6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM		3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
				2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



While vaccines are the best tool at fighting against COVID-19, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has the following therapeutics, authorized under Emergency Use Authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, available to treat eligible patients who have mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms.

To reduce the risk of severe illness in patients with mild symptoms infected with the delta variant:

■ **REGEN-COV** – monoclonal antibody given intravenously (into your bloodstream) or subcutaneously

# COVID-19 therapeutics available in the CNMI

(under your skin)

■ **Bamlanivimab** and **etesevimab** – monoclonal antibody given intravenously

To reduce the risk of severe illness in patients with mild symptoms infected with the delta or omicron variant:

■ **Sotrovimab** – monoclonal antibody given intravenously

■ **Veklury (remdesivir)** – antiviral given intravenously, daily for three days

■ **Paxlovid** – antiviral given orally

■ **Molnupiravir** – antiviral

given orally

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (a drug given to prevent disease or infection) in patients not yet infected, to reduce the risk of severe illness from the delta or omicron variant:

■ **Evusheld** – long-acting monoclonal antibody given intramuscularly (into the muscle)

Treatment in the hospital for COVID-19 infection, delta or omicron variant:

■ **Remdesivir** – antiviral given intravenously, daily for five days

■ **Tocilizumab** – given intravenously

■ **Baricitinib** – alternative to tocilizumab

■ **Sarilumab** – alternative to tocilizumab

Veklury (remdesivir) is the first drug approved by the FDA to treat COVID-19, for use in adults and pediatric patients 12 years of age and older and weighing at least 40 kilograms (about 88 lbs) requiring hospitalization. This approval does not include the entire population that had been authorized to use Veklury under EUA, which is not the same as approval.

FDA oversight of Veklury does not end with approval, and continued safety monitoring after approval is an important FDA duty for all the products that the agency regulates.

Evusheld is available as a treatment for individuals not yet infected (pre-exposure prophylaxis) with SARS-CoV-2 for the prevention of COVID-19. Evusheld can be given to adults and pediatric individuals 12 years of age and older, weighing at least 40 kilograms (about 88 lbs).

Seek care or test early if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, as you may be eligible for monoclonal antibodies or other new treatments that are given soon after infection.

Some patients may have conditions or take chronic medications that may make a particular treatment or procedure inadvisable (contraindications). Always consult with your medical provider for the best advice for your situation. (**CHCC**)

Oleai Elementary School students—affectionately referred to as “turtles” in reference to the school’s mascot—continue to shine in all their events in the third virtual monthly qualifying competitions of the Primary Grades Forensic Conference, which started in November 2021 and finished in January 2022. The group events, which were scheduled in December 2021, were further moved to January due to remote learning. All the group events, which consists of four groups of Duo Interpretation and one group of Choral Speaking, practiced for one week in January and were all winners.

OES students did an excellent job and placed in all their events since the start of the competition in September 2021. Students continue to practice after school in preparation for the regional competition after one more monthly competition in February. All events are pre-recorded videos except for Impromptu Speaking, which is live via Google Meet.

PGFC competitions encourage public and private school students from kindergarten

## OES Turtles continue to shine in PGFC competition

to fifth grade to participate in and become proficient in the forensic performing arts: reading, public speaking, and interpretation.

Thank you to our OES PGFC coach, Esther Manzano, teachers, and parents for the partnership in supporting our students. Oleai Elementary School Turtle Family would like to extend their congratulations to the following winners who participated in this competition.



Third Primary Grades Forensic Conference competition winners of Oleai Elementary School have their photo taken inside their school campus.

### K-2 DIVISION

#### Declamation

Hallie Marianne Padolina, 1st Place

#### Reader's Forum B

Julienne Rhyme Casuncad, 1st Place

#### Humorous Interpretation

Francisco Tudela, 3rd Place

#### Impromptu Speaking

Hallie Marianne Padolina, 3rd Place

### CCLHS

Hallie Marianne Padolina, 5th Place

### 3-5 DIVISION

#### Declamation

Alexander Joseph Salunda-guit, 1st Place

Amlesh David Jr. Jha, 2nd Place

Jovanalyn Mettao, 4th Place

#### Dramatic Interpretation

Tianmei Jia, 1st Place  
Keanalise Sablan, 2nd Place

Brent Villanueva, 3rd Place

**Humorous Interpretation**  
Tianmei Jia, 2nd Place

#### Impromptu Speaking

Hallie Marianne Padolina, 2nd Place

Marvic James Javaluyas, 3rd Place

#### Impromptu Speaking B

Mario Jr. Sedanza, 4th Place

#### Readers Forum B

Taizo Kaneshi, 4th Place

### Readers Forum Masters A

Zoe Ardieta, 2nd Place

### Readers Forum Masters B

Leila Leightley, 1st Place

### Readers Forum Masters C

Hanna Gabrielle Ramos, 1st Place

### Readers Forum Masters D

Brent Villanueva, 3rd Place

### Readers Forum Masters E

Alexander Joseph Salunda-

guit, 2nd Place

### CCLHS

Isabel Maximina Carreon, 1st Place

Hanna Marie Padolina, 2nd Place

Chineinalyn Jones, 3rd Place

### Duo Interpretation A

Reiana Benavente, 2nd Place  
Isabel Maximina Carreon, 2nd Place

Jovanalyn Mettao, 5th Place

Keanalise Sablan, 5th Place

### Duo Interpretation B

Hannah Gabrielle Ramos, 1st Place

Enyan Tang, 1st Place

Zoe Ardieta, 5th Place


Chineinalyn Jones, 5th Place

### Choral Speaking

Reiana Benavente, 1st Place  
Isabel Maximina Carreon, 1st Place

Erricka Long, 1st Place  
Jovanalyn Mettao, 1st Place

Mario Jr. Sedanza, 1st Place (**PR**)



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**

**ITB NO.: ITB22-MOR/DLNR-42200053 (CIF ROTA)**

**SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2022 TIME: 09:00 A.M.**

**“(A) PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 35 HP COMMERCIAL - GRADE ZERO - TURN RIDING MOWER, SIDE DISCHARGE DECK, 60”-72” FINISH MOWER DECK B) 6’X12’ SINGLE AXLE ALUMINUM WOOD-FLOOR UTILITY TRAILER WITH GATE/RAMP – 2,219 LBS LOAD CAPACITY FOR THE MAYOR OF ROTA, DEPARTMENT OF DLNR”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG. GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**\*\*FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY\*\***


QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. DAVID M. CALVO, RESIDENT DIRECTOR, VIA EMAIL TO [davemcalvo@gmail.com](mailto:davemcalvo@gmail.com).

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ DAVID M. CALVO**  
RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**

**ITB NO.: ITB22-COR-42200059**

**SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2022 TIME: 09:30 A.M.**

**“FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG. GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**\*\*FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY\*\***

**A MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON February 9, 2022 AT 9:30 A.M., LOCAL TIME AT THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, TEKKEEN STREET, SUSUPE, SAIPAN.**


QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION AND MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO RITA IGLECIAS, HR MANAGER, **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON FEBRUARY 14, 2022** TO [ringlecias.doc@gmail.com](mailto:ringlecias.doc@gmail.com), OR VIA PHONE AT (670) 237-2704.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**


THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ WALLY F. VILLAGOMEZ**  
COMMISSIONER

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD**  
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court  
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814  
Email: [cnmibpl-hcplb.net](mailto:cnmibpl-hcplb.net)  
Website: [cnmibpl-hcplb.net](http://cnmibpl-hcplb.net)



Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 8am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

### AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (**12/22/2021**)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
  - A. Announcement of his term expiration
  - B. Retention of Board member Ted Parker until a Successor is Confirmed
  - C. Election of Officers for 2022-2024
- VII. Director's Report
  - A. Update on House Bill No. 22-26, HD1 – Removal of Board terms
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  - A. Governor's Office
  - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
  - A. New Application
  - B. Renewal Applications
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
  - **Peter Geissler – Radiology Technology Applicant (Update)**
- XV. Announcements
  - A. Next Meeting Date
  - B. Adjournment of Meeting



# Business

## FDA halts use of antibody drugs that don't work against omicron

WASHINGTON (AP)—COVID-19 antibody drugs from Regeneron and Eli Lilly should no longer be used because they don't work against the omicron variant that now accounts for nearly all U.S. infections, U.S. health regulators said Monday.

The Food and Drug Administration said it was revoking emergency authorization for both drugs, which were purchased by the federal government and have been administered to millions of Americans with COVID-19. If the drugs prove effective against future variants, the FDA said it could reauthorize their use.

The regulatory move was expected because both drug-makers had said the infusion drugs are less able to target omicron due to its mutations. Still, the federal action could trigger pushback from some Republican governors who have continued promoting the drugs against the advice of health experts.

Omicron's resistance to the two leading monoclonal antibody medicines has upended the treatment playbook for COVID-19 in recent weeks.

Doctors have alternate therapies to battle early COVID-19 cases, including two new antiviral pills from Pfizer and Merck, but both are in short supply. An antibody drug from GlaxoSmithKline



A doctor holds a Regeneron monoclonal antibody infusion bag during a news conference Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021 at a hospital in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

that remains effective also is in short supply.

The drugs are laboratory-made versions of virus-blocking antibodies. They are intended to head off severe disease and death by supplying concentrated doses of one or two antibodies early in an infection. Then-President Donald Trump received Regeneron's antibody combination after he tested positive for the coronavirus in 2020.

The FDA noted in its decision that omicron accounts for more than 99% of U.S. infections, making it "highly unlikely" the antibodies would help people now seeking treatment. The agency said restricting their use would also eliminate unnecessary drug side effects, including

allergic reactions.

The U.S. government temporarily stopped distributing the two drugs in late December, as omicron was racing across the country to become the dominant variant. But officials resumed distribution after complaints from Republican governors, including Florida's Ron DeSantis, who claimed that the drugs continued to help some omicron patients.

DeSantis has heavily promoted antibody drugs as a signature part of his administration's COVID-19 response, setting up infusion sites and lauding them at news conferences, while opposing vaccine mandates and other public health measures. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has also launched state-sponsored infusion sites.

search giant has misled users into believing they can control the information the company collects about them. "In reality, consumers who use Google products cannot prevent Google from collecting, storing and profiting from their location," the lawsuit says. Google has "an unprecedented ability to monitor consumers' daily lives." Google makes it impossible for users to opt out of having their sensitive and valuable location data tracked, the suit alleges.

### Biden revives 'clean energy' program with \$1B loan guarantee

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration has issued its first clean energy loan guarantee, reviving an Obama-era program that helped launch the country's first utility-scale wind and solar farms a decade ago but has largely gone dormant in recent years. The Energy Department said it would guarantee up to \$1 billion in loans to help a Nebraska company scale up production of "clean" hydrogen to convert natural gas into commercial products used in manufacturing and agriculture. The revived loan program is part of President Joe Biden's efforts to slash planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030, amid legislative gridlock that has stalled a \$2 trillion package of social and environmental initiatives. It's among the tools he can use without new legislation.

# Nation

## AMID RUSSIA WORRY

## 8,500 US troops on heightened alert

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon ordered 8,500 troops on higher alert Monday to potentially deploy to Europe as part of a NATO "response force" amid growing concern that Russia could soon make a military move on Ukraine. President Joe Biden consulted with key European leaders, underscoring U.S. solidarity with allies there.

Putting the U.S.-based troops on heightened alert for Europe suggested diminishing hope that Russian President Vladimir Putin will back away from what Biden himself has said looks like a threat to invade neighboring Ukraine.

At stake, beyond the future of Ukraine, is the credibility

of a NATO alliance that is central to U.S. defense strategy but that Putin views as a Cold War relic and a threat to Russian security. For Biden, the crisis represents a major test of his ability to forge a united allied stance against Putin.

Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said about 8,500 U.S.-based troops are being put on alert for possible deployment—not to Ukraine but to NATO territory in Eastern Europe as part of an alliance force meant to signal a unified commitment to deter any wider Putin aggression.

Russia denies it is planning an invasion. It says Western accusations are merely a cover for NATO's own planned provocations. Recent days have seen

high-stakes diplomacy that has failed to reach any breakthrough, and key players in the drama are making moves that suggest fear of imminent war. Biden has sought to strike a balance between actions meant to deter Putin and those that might provide the Russian leader with an opening to use the huge force he has assembled at Ukraine's border.

Biden held an 80-minute video call with several European leaders on the Russian military buildup and potential responses to an invasion.

"I had a very, very, very good meeting -- total unanimity with all the European leaders," Biden told reporters at the White House. "We'll talk about it later."

## 'Video will show 3 cops violated Floyd's rights'

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Witness testimony will get underway in earnest Tuesday at the federal civil rights trial of three former Minneapolis police officers accused of failing to intervene as fellow Officer Derek Chauvin killed George Floyd by pressing his knee into the Black man's neck as he lay facedown, handcuffed and gasping for air.

Former officers J. Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao are broadly charged with depriving Floyd of his civil rights while acting under government authority. Floyd, 46,

died on May 25, 2020, after Chauvin knelt on his neck for 9 1/2 minutes. Kueng knelt on Floyd's back, Lane held his legs and Thao kept bystanders from intervening.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys spent most of Monday laying out their cases to the jury during opening statements of the former officers' trial, with prosecutors saying they will show that Kueng, Lane and Thao stood by as Chauvin "slowly killed George Floyd right in front of them."

"We will ask you to hold these men accountable for choosing to do nothing and watch a man die," said pros-

ecutor Samantha Trepel, who works for the Justice Department's civil rights division.

But it was Chauvin, the senior officer at the scene, who called "all of the shots," one defense attorney told jurors, adding that the Minneapolis Police Department did too little to train officers to intervene when a colleague should be stopped.

Another officer's attorney focused on Floyd's struggle with police before they restrained him. And an attorney for the third officer said his client raised concerns about the restraint of Floyd, but was rebuffed.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Facebook parent Meta creates powerful AI supercomputer

MENLO PARK, Calif. (AP)—Facebook's parent company Meta on Monday said it has created what it believes is among the fastest artificial intelligence supercomputers running today. The social media giant said it hopes the machine will help lay the groundwork for its building of the metaverse, a virtual reality construct intended to supplant the internet as we know it today. Facebook said it believes the computer will be the fastest in the world once it is fully built around the middle of the year. Supercomputers are extremely fast and powerful machines built to do complex calculations not possible with a regular home computer. Meta did not disclose where the computer is located or how much it is costing to build.

### DC, 3 states sue Google saying it invades users' privacy

WASHINGTON (AP)—The District of Columbia and three states are suing Google for allegedly deceiving consumers and invading their privacy by making it nearly impossible for them to stop their location from being tracked. In the lawsuit filed Monday in a District of Columbia court, D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine alleges Google has "systematically" deceived consumers about how their locations are tracked and used. He also says the internet

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Boy, 5, dies after Denver area apartment building fire

AURORA, Colo. (AP)—Fire swept through a three-story apartment building in suburban Denver early Monday and a 5-year-old boy died after firefighters rescued people unable to escape on their own, officials said. Fire officials said that people couldn't get down the stairs of the building during the fire in the city of Aurora and photos showed the outdoor staircases burned in the blaze. Firefighters using ladders rescued about nine people from the building, said Lt. Dan Pollet, a spokesperson for Aurora Fire Rescue. The unidentified boy died in a hospital, Aurora Fire Rescue said in a statement.

### 6 charged with bid to smuggle arsenal to Mexican drug cartel

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Six men have been charged with plotting to smuggle assault weapons and hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition, including .50-caliber armor piercing bullets, to one of Mexico's most violent drug cartels, authorities announced Monday. The alleged ringleader of the scheme, Marco Antonio Santillan Valencia, 51, of Whittier, California, and three oth-

er men were arrested last week while a fifth is in custody facing separate charges in North Carolina and the sixth is believed to be in Mexico, the U.S. attorney's office said. The men are accused of conspiracy to violate federal export laws by smuggling weapons into Mexico for the *Cártel Jalisco Nueva Generación*. Several also face other smuggling or money laundering charges.

### Chief: 3 Baltimore firefighters killed in vacant home blaze

BALTIMORE (AP)—Three Baltimore firefighters were killed and a fourth was injured when part of a vacant home collapsed while they were battling a blaze early Monday, the city's fire chief said. The Baltimore City Fire Department said in a tweet that firefighters were responding to a blaze at the three-story rowhome when the four were trapped inside. Crews removed piles of debris to locate the firefighters, the department said. Chief Niles R. Ford told a news conference that injured firefighter John McMaster was pulled from the rowhome immediately and taken to the hospital, where he was listed in critical condition Monday afternoon. Dr. Thomas Scalea of Maryland Shock Trauma said McMaster was on life support.



## World

# China sends 39 warplanes toward Taiwan

**TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)**—China flew 39 warplanes toward Taiwan in its largest such sortie of the new year, amid tensions over the self-ruled island's future and as the U.S. pushes to

assert its presence in the region.

The Chinese formation Sunday night included 24 J-16 fighter jets and 10 J-10 jets, among other support and electronic warfare aircraft,

according to Taiwan's defense ministry.

Taiwan's air force scrambled its own jets and tracked the People's Liberation Army planes on its air defense radar

systems, the ministry said.

The Chinese sortie came as the U.S. military said that two of its carrier strike groups were sailing on Sunday in the South China Sea, led by USS Carl Vinson and USS Abraham Lincoln. They engaged in anti-submarine, air and combat readiness operations.

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs declined to comment on why the PLA had flown such a large sortie on Monday, saying it was not a diplomatic matter.

Taiwan and China split during a civil war in 1949, but China claims the island as its

own territory. Beijing has used diplomatic and military means to isolate and intimidate the self-ruled island, but the U.S. has continued to support Taiwan by selling it advanced weapons and fighter planes.

Chinese pilots have been flying towards Taiwan on a near-daily basis in the past year and a half, since Taiwan's government started publishing the data regularly. The largest sortie was 56 warplanes on a single day last October.

The activity has generally been in the air space southwest of the island and falls into a zone that Taiwan's military

says it monitors out of national security considerations.

Tensions have been high since Taiwanese citizens elected Tsai Ing-wen as president in 2016, to which Beijing responded by cutting off previously established communications with the island's government. Tsai's predecessor was friendly to China and had endorsed Beijing's claim that the two are part of a single Chinese nation.

The U.S. regularly carries out exercises in the South China Sea in what it calls freedom of navigation operations, in line with international law.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Hope seen once the omicron wave increases global immunity

World health officials are offering hope that the ebbing of the omicron wave could give way to a new, more manageable phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, even as they warn of difficult weeks ahead and the possibility of another, more dangerous variant arising. In the U.S., cases have crested and are dropping rapidly, following a pattern seen in Britain and South Africa, with researchers projecting a period of low spread in many countries by the end of March. Though U.S. deaths—now at 2,000 each day—are still rising, new hospital admissions have started to fall, and a drop in deaths is expected to follow. The encouraging trends after two years of coronavirus misery have brought a noticeably hopeful tone from health experts. Rosy predictions have crumbled before, but this time they are backed by what could be called omicron's silver lining: The highly contagious variant will leave behind extremely high levels of immunity.

### Soldiers declare military junta in control in Burkina Faso

**OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP)**—More than a dozen mutinous soldiers declared Monday on state television that a military junta had seized control of Burkina Faso after detaining the democratically elected president following a day of gunbattles in the capital of the West African country. The military coup in a nation that was once a bastion of stability was the third of its kind in the region in the last 18 months, creating upheaval in some of the countries hardest hit by Islamic extremist attacks. Capt. Sidsore Kabre Ouedraogo said the Patriotic Movement for Safeguarding and Restoration "has decided to assume its responsibilities before history." The soldiers put an end to President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré's presidency because of the deteriorating security situation and the president's inability

to manage the crisis, he said. It was not immediately known where Kaboré was, and the junta spokesman said only that the coup had taken place "without any physical violence against those arrested, who are being held in a safe place, with respect for their dignity."

### S. Korean officials say North Korea tested cruise missiles

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—North Korea on Tuesday test-fired two suspected cruise missiles in its fifth round of weapons launches this month, South Korean military officials said, as it displays its military might amid pandemic-related difficulties and a prolonged freeze in nuclear negotiations with the United States. One official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, citing department rules, said South Korean and U.S. intelligence officials were analyzing the launches, but didn't provide further details. Another military official, who requested anonymity over similar reasons, said the tests were conducted from an inland area, but didn't specify where.

### Police: Fire, clash at nightclub kill 19 people in Indonesia

**JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)**—A nightclub in Indonesia's West Papua province burned after two groups clashed inside the building and 19 people were killed, officials said Tuesday. One of the dead was a member of the groups that clashed Monday night at the club in Sorong city and 18 bodies were found after the fire, Adam Erwindi, spokesperson of West Papua Police, said on Metro TV. Police are still investigating what caused the clash and whether the fire was set or was accidental. Erwindi added that along with the investigation, police officers were meeting the main figures of the two groups to make for more conducive conditions. Police and Indonesian military officers were in control in the area.



### 8,000 NEW CASES

Medical workers in booths take nasal samples from people at a makeshift testing site in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022. South Korea recorded more than 8,000 new coronavirus infections for the first time Tuesday as health authorities reshape the country's pandemic response to address a surge driven by the highly contagious omicron variant.

AP

*In celebration of her new life...*

## Emily Valles Vargas

March 29, 1960 – January 13, 2022

**Survived By Her Family**

**RIPARIP, Eduardo**

- Ronald Joy & Ana Marie Diarez (Patricia Danielle, Gabrielle Joy, Eduardo)
- Cristy Anne Joy & Edwin Ramos (Ma. Kiersten Charrize, Elnathan, Kadmielle \ Dwyane, Enzo)
- Eduard Joy & Kimberly Joy Riparip (Althea Samantha and Adam)
- Ryan Joy & Ma. Ellen Riparip (Ma. Elaine Joy, Jaden Lorence, Heven Brielle)
- Cherry Ann Joy & Jhon Lerry Arabit (Aimielle Santino and Ainieyella ShAuntEzA)
- † Cathy Ann Joy Riparip

**VARGAS, Eugenio Jr.**

- Mike Aries Valles Vargas (Arye Minato Keao Vargas)
- Mikky Aries Valles Vargas

**Memorial Service**

January 26, 2022, Wednesday | 6:30pm  
Garapan Central Park (Roundhouse), Garapan, Saipan, USA

*"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." - Revelation 21: 4*



# Good Housekeeping

## Affordable designer hacks to spruce up your pad

By CATHY HOBBS  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Looking for ways to glam up your pad without breaking the bank? Here are some affordable design hacks that will spruce up nearly any space and help stretch your design dollars.

- Look for portable design**  
Look for decor items you can swap in and swap out, whether it means being able to move a decor item from room to room as a refresh or to change out with the seasons. Bring in color and texture using affordable elements such as toss pillows.
- Incorporate greenery**  
From succulents to artificial florals and blooms, greenery can help to add both color and texture to nearly any space.
- Incorporate mirrors**  
Mirrors are less expensive than artwork. Looking for a way to be creative? Consider hanging artwork in a series or grid.
- Add small but functional accents**  
This can range from a side table that creates a reading nook to a table lamp that adds much-needed light to a dark corner. Not sure what to choose? Consider a selection with modern, timeless lines.
- Bring in affordable art**  
When it comes to art, even an inexpensive print can often make a bold statement, with the right image and frame.
- Let there be light**  
Light not only helps make spaces feel warm and cozy, it can also help add a touch of glam. Brass remains one of the hottest finishes right now. Looking for an interesting way to integrate lighting into your space? Consider a long pendant in an entryway, in a bedroom or over a bedside table.
- Sit in style**  
Consider affordable seating options such as a stool or bench instead of larger items such as a chair.
- Explore affordable neutral elements such as area rugs**  
Often area rugs add a certain finish to a space, and they don't have to break the bank.
- Create individual vignettes**  
Small, affordable but attractive items can look great and aesthetically appealing when placed in a grouping.



Artificial greenery adds a pop of color and texture to this living space. SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/PROVIDED PHOTO/TNS

### LIVING SMART:

## Ideas to organize your pantry cabinet

By SHANNON ANTINORI  
ANGIE'S LIST

The key to a decluttered kitchen starts with pantry organization — but tackling shelf upon shelf of cans, boxes and bags of food can be daunting. Professional organizer Erin Kelly says her company, Chicago-based Arranged by Erin, frequently gets calls from homeowners looking for help with their out-of-control pantry cabinets. “It’s a time thing,” she says. “People get very overwhelmed. That’s why a lot of them call.” While a home organizer can orga-

nize your pantry for you, you can also do it yourself with a few pointers. **Create categories** When it comes to organizing the pantry, grouping similar items together is critical. “The important thing is to zone your pantry,” Kelly says. Make one section for pasta, one for canned fruits, one for vegetables, one for spices and so on, Kelly advises. Grouping items by category will help you cut down your cooking time by eliminating the need to hunt through the pantry for a certain item. “The best thing is to pull every-

thing out, wipe (the pantry) down and put it all back by category,” Kelly says. If you have a child or relative with allergies or special dietary needs, keep their items on a separate shelf or in a certain “zone.” Kelly also recommends labeling items to help a nanny or babysitter know which items are OK for each child to have. **Save money with storage** Creative storage options won’t just keep your pantry cabinet neat — they can also save you money. People wind up buying duplicates of items because they can’t see what

they’ve got hiding in the depths of the pantry, Kelly says. “It’s tempting to stock up, but I don’t need three ketchups in my pantry,” Kelly says. Deep pantry shelves can add to the problem, making it difficult to see what’s in stock. Retailers like The Container Store and Target sell clear storage containers that are perfect for storing items like spices, packets and pastas, Kelly says. Plastic stair-stepper organizers are good for storing items like canned goods, making it easy to see what’s there, she adds. Stackable shelving and wire baskets can also help you declutter and keep items visible. Being able to see what you have will help you re-evaluate the way you shop, saving you time, pantry space and money, Kelly says. Once you can see what you have, you can make a running list of what’s in stock and what needs to be added to your weekly shopping list. **Find a spot for overflow** If your pantry cabinet is just not fulfilling your space needs, it may be time to find a place for your kitchen overflow. Kelly cautions against using a garage or mudroom for extra food storage, since that can attract mice. “I like the idea of shelves or cabinets in the basement area,” she says. Kelly recommends basement storage for items that aren’t used every day, such as pots, pans and extra canned goods.



## Web browsing prompts feelings of inadequacy

### DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



**D**EAR ABBY: I'm a lesbian. My girlfriend and I have been together for a couple of months now. We fell in love quickly and we're getting ready to move in together. I'm really excited about it, but an "incident" happened recently while we were spending time together.

We were watching TV, and I noticed she was on a website looking at women wearing bikinis. At first I thought, "Are you serious? Right in front of me?" So I looked over and asked her about it. She looked back at me and said, "What?" It made me feel incredibly insecure.

I know she loves me, but she doesn't understand how hurt I was seeing that. It made me feel like I'm not enough. What should I tell her? Should I break up with her? Or am I wrong to feel this way?

TORN IN SOUTH CAROLINA

**DEAR TORN:** Your relationship is new. Looking at pictures of people dressed in swimming attire is hardly indicative of a porn addiction or a hint that you are not "enough."

Before you two move in together, you both need to talk this through, and you **ABSOLUTELY** need to learn to deal with your feelings of insecurity because, if you don't, they could eventually drive away any of your love interests. Please, get to know each other for a longer period before taking your relationship to the next level by moving in.

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm 44 and divorced. I have no kids and I live with my parents. I didn't finish college but I do have a job in my field of study. I'm happy in my job, have some friends and am content to not date anyone ever again. However, I feel like I'm a failure.

I'd be embarrassed to go to a school reunion and have to tell my former classmates about my pathetic life. I was always the ambitious one in my circle of friends. I was the one who was going to make something of myself and have an amazing career, a husband and kids. My parents are disabled, and it does help that I live with them. I pay rent/utilities and for my own groceries.

How can I convince myself that I haven't made a complete mess of my life and that my circumstances don't mean my life has been wasted?

SELF-CONSCIOUS IN ARIZONA

**DEAR SELF-CONSCIOUS:** While you may not have achieved the lofty goals you set for yourself when you were younger, you are being awfully hard on yourself by calling yourself a "failure." You have a job you love, in the field in which you want to work, and good friends. (In order to have friends, you have to be one.)

I assume the reason you are content to no longer date is past relationships didn't work out. If I'm right, that makes you a member of a very large club. Please try to remain open-minded, because one day you may meet someone you can care about and who will appreciate the value in you. And caring for your disabled parents is a heavy responsibility, and needs to take priority over a social life.

A way to counteract these self-defeating, negative feelings would be to concentrate every day on those things you **HAVE** accomplished, rather than what you perceive to be your shortcomings, instead of comparing yourself to others.

*For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

## Life & Style

### Biden answers inflation query by calling Fox reporter SOB

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Joe Biden responded to a question about inflation on Monday by calling a Fox News reporter a vulgar.

The president was in the East Room of the White House for a meeting of his Competition Council, which is focused on changing regulations and enforcing laws to help consumers deal with high prices. Reporters in the room shouted a number of questions after Biden's remarks.

Fox News' Peter Doocy

asked Biden about inflation, which is at a nearly 40-year high and has hurt the president's public approval. Doocy's network has been relentlessly critical of Biden.

Doocy called out, Biden "Do you think inflation is a political liability ahead of the midterms?"

Biden responded with sarcasm, "It's a great asset—more inflation." Then he



shook his head and added, "What a stupid son of a bitch."

The president's comments were captured on video and by the microphone in front of him. Doocy laughed it off in a subsequent appearance on his network, joking, "Nobody has fact-checked him yet and said it's not true."

Doocy told Fox News' Sean Hannity that Biden called him

later to the clear the air. Doocy said Biden told him, "It's nothing personal, pal."

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The White House has insisted repeatedly that it is focused on curbing inflation, with Biden reorienting his entire economic agenda around the issue. But the president has also shown a willingness to challenge a media that he deems to be too critical, especially Fox News and Doocy.

### Spanish monarch's sister and husband break up after 25 years

**MADRID** (AP)—The sister of Spain's King Felipe VI, Cristina de Borbón, and her husband, Iñaki Urdangarin, are announcing the end of their marriage after nearly 25 years together, Spain's state news agency EFE reported Monday, citing a statement from the couple.

The announcement came a week after a gossip magazine in Spain published photos of Urdangarin taking a stroll in a southern French coastal town while holding hands with a work colleague.

In their statement to EFE, the couple asked for "respect" for a private decision "to end our marriage relationship by mutual agreement." They added that their commitment to their four children remained "intact," the agency said.



Spain's Duke of Palma Inaki Urdangarin and Princess Cristina de Borbon, left, show their daughter Irene in Barcelona, Spain, on June 8, 2005.

Urdangarin, a 54-year-old former Olympic handball medal winner, was convicted of fraud and tax evasion in 2018. He served part of his five-year and 10-month sen-

tence until early last year in a northern Spanish prison

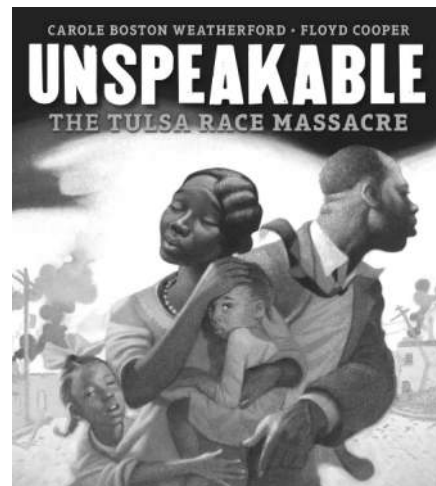
### 'Last Cuentista,' 'Unspeakable' win children's book awards

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Donna Barba Higuera's "The Last Cuentista," a post-apocalyptic tale of a young girl who must preserve the memory of Earth's history, has won the John Newbery Medal for the year's best children's book.

Another story of memory was awarded the Randolph Caldecott Medal for outstanding children's picture book. "Watercress," in which a Chinese American girl learns about her heritage, was illustrated by Jason Chin and written by Andrea Wang.

The Newbery and Caldecott medals were part of the Youth Media Awards announced Monday by the American Library Association.

Higuera also received a Pura Belpré Award, which honors Latinx writers and illustrators, for best author, while "Wa-



(LERNER PUBLISHING GROUP VIA AP)

This cover image released by Carolrhoda Books shows "Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre" by Carole Boston Weatherford with art by Floyd Cooper. The book received Coretta Scott King awards for the year's best book by a Black author and illustrator. Cooper collaborated with Weatherford on the historical work about the 1921 slaughter of a Black community in Oklahoma by a mob of white people.

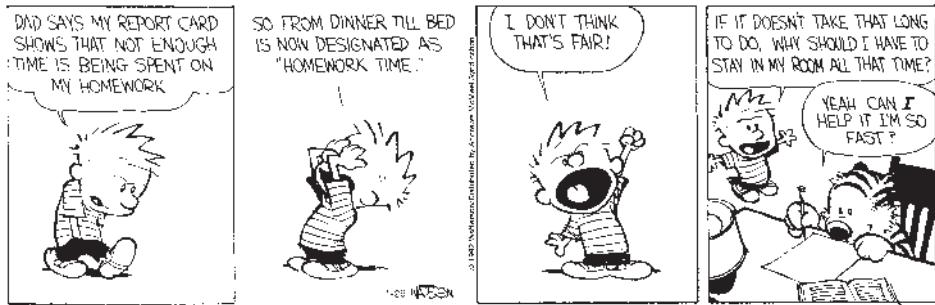
tercress" was also named the year's outstanding Asian/Pacific American picture book. Malinda Lo's "Last Night at the Telegraph Club," winner last fall of the National Book Award for young people's literature, received the Asian/Pacific American Award for Youth Literature.



# Pastimes

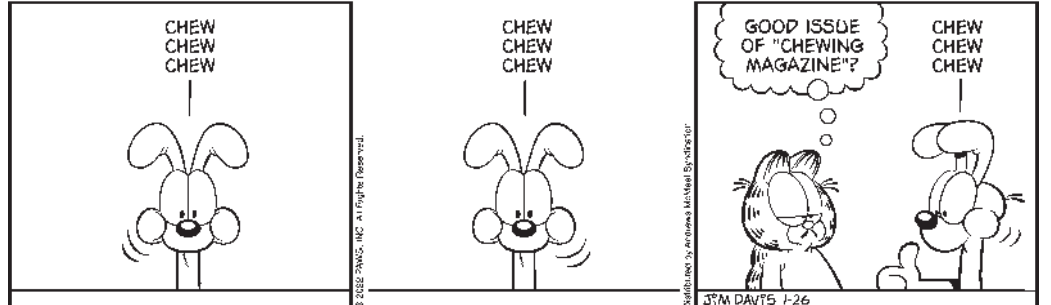
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Texter's "Heavens!" show

4 "Nova" letters

7 Half a dressers sextet

8 '90s candidate Ross

10 Actor Reeves

11 Obliterates

13 Paddy Chayefsky novel

16 "— -haw!" (oater cry)

17 Stable moms

18 Sony rival

19 Sleek, in car lingo

20 Morsels

21 Roles

23 Elegance

25 Valley

26 Ark builder

27 Clean air org.

**DOWN**

28 Rascal

30 Hit

33 Stylish

36 Vail

37 Pueblo material

38 Mimic's forte

39 Entre —

40 Retired

41 Summer hrs.

1 Coal source

3 Epicure

4 Intrinsically

5 Spoiled kids

6 Slugger

7 Far

8 Director

9 Block-dropping

10 Singer

12 Factions

14 Canal zones?

15 Airline to

19 Exist

20 "Humbug"

21 Mamas' mates

22 The Last

23 Freebie

24 Scandianavian region

25 Dict. info

26 Mary Poppins, e.g.

28 Begets

29 Woo

30 Portly

31 Soldiers in gray

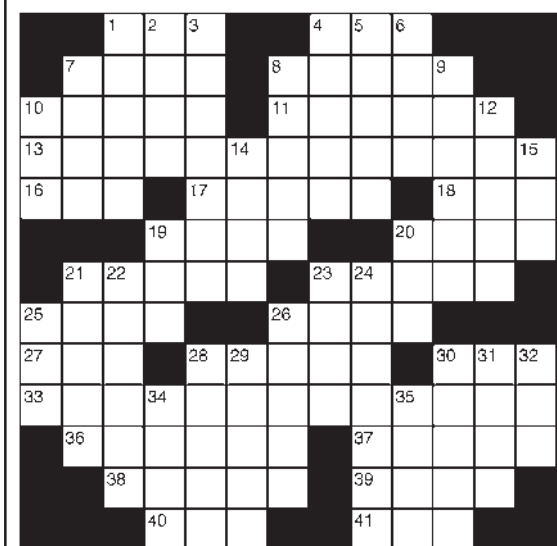
32 Sugar suffix

34 Swinging joints?

35 Big fusses

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 1-25**



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Colin O'Donoghue, 41; Sara Rue, 43; Ellen DeGeneres, 64; Lucinda Williams, 69.

**Happy Birthday:** Stay poised and ready to take on whatever comes your way. Don't let the changes others make sway you in a direction that doesn't help you excel. Spend less, sell off what you don't need and minimize stressful situations that stand between you and the life you want to live. Map out a plan, and inch your way to the finish line. Your numbers are 6, 14, 25, 29, 31, 38, 46.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Stick to what and who you know and trust. Refuse to let your emotions take over when dealing with a friend or lover. Play fair and expect the same from others. Balance, integrity and equality are necessary for any partnership. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** If you swivel from one thing to another, you'll lose sight of your goal. Stick to your original plan, then move forward. A steady pace will lead to bigger and better opportunities. Enjoy your success with someone you love. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Leave nothing to chance. Do your part to live up to your promises. Refuse to let anyone interfere with your progress or tempt you to do something you know you shouldn't. Avoid superfluous offers and individuals who promote indulgence. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Explore what's available and how you can use your skills to surpass your expectations. Dig in and put your energy where it will turn a profit for

you. Connect with like-minded people, and an exciting partnership will develop. \*\*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Stop and rethink your next move. Emotions will escalate if someone makes changes that don't fit your intentions or plans. Be persistent, and head down the path that makes you feel comfortable. Take control instead of giving it away. \*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Get into the groove, and keep up with what's current. Staying fit, socializing, networking and participating in something uplifting will lead to new connections and a healthy routine. Love and romance will lift your spirits. \*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Revisit the past, and you'll figure out the best way to handle someone or something that is causing you grief. Show restraint when someone asks for too much. Look out for your interests, and protect your assets, possessions and passwords. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Keep an open mind, but don't be gullible. Helping others is honorable, but make sure you don't get left doing all the work yourself. Leave plenty of time to take care of your needs. Your comfort and happiness are your responsibility. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Put your energy where it will do some good. Finish what you start before you head out with friends. Take your responsibilities seriously, and you'll avoid criticism and complaints. Someone will try to take advantage of you if you are too accommodating. \*\*\*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Stand up for your beliefs, and put your reputation on the line. Confidence and living up to your promises will make a difference in the way others respond to you. Share your thoughts with someone you love, and progress will follow. \*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Be secretive regarding your plans. Check out what it will take for you to head in a meaningful direction. Feeling good about what you do will lift your spirits and encourage you to work hard to reach your objective. \*\*

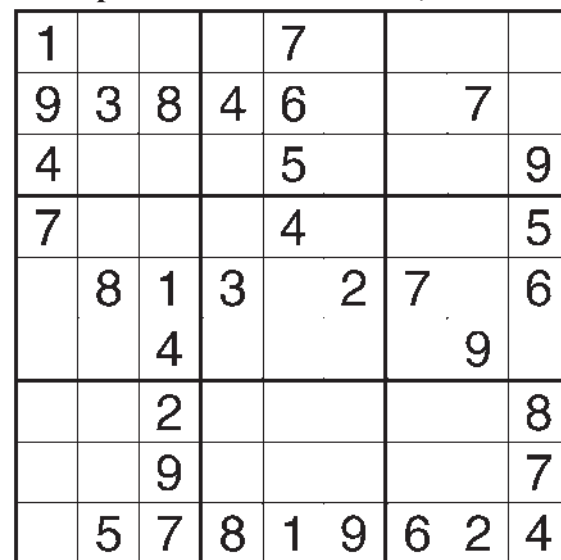
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Find a unique way to invest your time, money or skills, and it will help you gain respect, recognition and support. Put more energy into initiating the changes that will make your life better. An appealing offer is within reach. \*\*\*\*\*  
**Birthday Baby:** You are serious, dedicated and responsible. You are intuitive and helpful.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



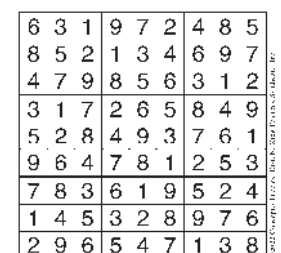
Difficulty Level ★★★

1/26

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level: \*\*

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LONDON FOG (APPAREL)

Solution: 9 letters



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1/26

Belt, Brand, Breeze, Care, Color, Customer, Elegant, Fabric, Fall, Handbag, Hood, Israel Myers, Lapel, Layer, Liner, Luggage, Market, Maxi, Navy, Online, Pant, Parka, Pastel, Plus, Price, Print, Puffer, Purse, Quilt, Raincoat, Retail, Reversible, Sale, Sash, Season, Shop, Signature, Summer, Textile, Tote, Trench, Trend, Umbrella, Warm, Weather, Winter, Wool  
**Yesterday's Answer: Insurance**  
Treasures 27, 28, 31 and 33 through 47 can be purchased online at [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com).



# Booker, Paul lead Suns past depleted Jazz, 115-109



**PHOENIX (AP)**—Devin Booker scored 33 points, Chris Paul had 15 of his season-high 27 points in the fourth quarter, and the Phoenix Suns rallied for a 115-109 win over the short-handed Utah Jazz on Monday night.

Paul just missed a triple-double with 14 assists and nine rebounds. The Suns improved their NBA-best record to 37-9, matching the 2006-07 team for the best start in franchise history.

The gritty Jazz trailed by 13 in the first half but jumped ahead 87-85 by the end of the third quarter. Utah pushed its lead to 95-91 early in the fourth but the Suns responded with a 14-2 run to take control.

Paul was the main catalyst for Phoenix's final push, dominating the quarter when Booker cooled off following a hot start. The 36-year-old point guard made his first five shots of the period, including two 3-pointers.

Utah was missing All-Stars Donovan Mitchell, Rudy Gobert and Mike Conley. The Jazz lost for the eighth times in 11 games.

Jordan Clarkson led the Jazz with 22 points, including



Phoenix Suns guard Chris Paul (3) looks to pass as Utah Jazz guard Trent Forrest (3) defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Jan. 24, 2022, in Phoenix. AP

three straight 3-pointers in the fourth quarter that made things interesting into the final minute.

The Suns scored the first

seven points and took a 31-21 lead into the second quarter. Booker scored 17 points in the first, making 8 of 13 shots with four rebounds and

two assists.

The Jazz rallied in the second quarter and cut the advantage to 58-56 by halftime. Booker led the Suns with 19 points before the break while Trent Forrest—who came into Monday averaging 1.9 points per game—led the Jazz with 11.

## Cavaliers 95, Knicks 93

In Cleveland, Kevin Love scored 20 points—nine straight in a 3-point barrage in just over a minute—and Darius Garland had 12 assists as Cleveland survived a late rally by New York.

Down by 15 in the fourth quarter, the Knicks made it close, but Julius Randle's 38-foot 3-pointer at the buzzer was way short.

Garland hit a late 3-pointer, rookie Evan Mobley had 15

points and 12 rebounds, and Isaac Okoro scored 14 points for the Cavs, who have won seven of eight.

RJ Barrett scored 24 points and Randle 18 for the Knicks.

## Bulls 111, Thunder 110

In Oklahoma City, Nikola Vucevic had 26 points and 15 rebounds, and Chicago withstood a fierce rally by Oklahoma City.

The Bulls led by 28 points in the third quarter, but the Thunder had a chance to tie it in the closing seconds. Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander missed a 3-pointer that would have evened the score with 2.3 seconds to play.

Rookie Ayo Dosunmu scored a season-high 24 points and Zach LaVine added 23 for the Bulls.

Gilgeous-Alexander had 31 points and 10 assists and Lu Dort added 16 points for the Thunder.

## Pelicans 117, Pacers 113

In New Orleans, Devonte Graham scored 25 points, Josh Hart had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and New Orleans beat Indiana.

Graham went 5 of 9 from 3-point range on a night when the rest of his team missed 20 of 21 from deep. Jonas Valanciunas had 16 points, 12 rebounds and six assists for New Orleans.

Indiana rookie Duane Washington Jr. hit a career-best seven shots (on 12 attempts) from deep for a career-high 21 points.

Caris LeVert scored 19 and Chris Duarte 14 for the Pacers.

## Bulls coach Donovan rips Bucks' Allen after flagrant foul



Milwaukee Bucks' Grayson Allen fouls Chicago Bulls' Alex Caruso during the second half of an NBA basketball game Friday, Jan. 21, 2022, in Milwaukee. AP

**MILWAUKEE (AP)**—Chicago Bulls coach Billy Donovan says the flagrant foul that resulted in Milwaukee Bucks guard Grayson Allen's ejection Friday night could have caused a serious injury and merits a closer look from the NBA.

Bulls guard Alex Caruso was driving to the basket midway through the third quarter when a hard foul from Allen caused him to land on his right side. Caruso lay on the floor for a few minutes, though he stayed in the game to attempt the free throws that resulted

from Allen's flagrant 2 foul.

"For Alex to be in the air like that, and for (Allen) to take him down like that, it could have ended (Caruso's) career," Donovan said after the Bulls' 94-90 loss. "And (Allen) has a history of this. That to me was really, it was really dangerous. And I really hope the league takes a hard look at something like that because (Allen) could have really, really seriously hurt him."

Caruso said after the game that his wrist was "a little banged up" and that he'd have to see how it feels in the next

couple of days.

"The dude just grabbed me out of the air," Caruso said.

The play was originally ruled a common shooting foul, but it was upgraded to a flagrant 2 after a replay review. The flagrant 2 resulted in an automatic ejection.

"For it to even be extended to a flagrant 2 and be thrown out of the game, clearly the officials must have felt like there was some intent there," Donovan said.

Bucks coaches and players spoke out in defense of Allen after the game.

## Portland's Lillard discusses his surgery, possible return

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
AP SPORTS WRITER

During the Tokyo Olympics, when Damian Lillard's abdominal injury flared up, Jrue Holiday suggested it was time for surgery.

Lillard finally took his fellow Olympian's advice and had the procedure Jan. 13. The Trail Blazers' star point guard spoke to reporters Saturday for the first time since the injury sidelined him on Jan. 3.

Holiday, who currently plays for the Milwaukee Bucks, had similar core surgery during the 2018-19 season when he was with New Orleans. He and Lillard were teammates in Japan last sum-

mer on the gold medal-winning U.S. team.

"He was the first person that pretty much confirmed that I needed to have surgery because I sat out of practice one day and I was like, 'I can't move,' and I was kind of just holding it. And he just started describing every single symptom," Lillard said. "And he was like 'I had it.'"

Lillard, a six-time All-Star, averaged 24 points and 7.3 assists in 29 games this season for the Blazers. It was clear from the start that the injury, lower abdominal tendinopathy, was bothersome.

"It was just one of those things where I've always had control over how I moved

and everything, and it had reached a point where my body couldn't do what my mind wanted it to do, and go places that I wanted it to go," he said. "At some point you've got to play chess, you've got to make decisions that suit you for the long haul and not just right now."

While the injury flared up in Tokyo, Lillard said he first felt the abdominal pain in 2015 and it had been gradually getting worse ever since.

The Blazers have struggled without Lillard, the undisputed leader of the team. Playing under first-year coach Chauncey Billups, Portland is 19-26 and in 10th place in the Western Conference.



# Tom Brady's return to the Bucs next season isn't a lock



**TAMPA, Fla.** (AP)—If Tom Brady played the last game of an unprecedented career, he ended with one of his toughest losses after a stunning comeback.

Bloodied and battered by the Los Angeles Rams, the 44-year-old seven-time Super Bowl champion rallied the Tampa Bay Buccaneers back from a 27-3 deficit, only to see the defense surrender a big play in the final minute to set up Matt Gay's winning 30-yard field goal.

The Rams' 30-27 victory Sunday sent Los Angeles home to host the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC championship game next week. They ended Tampa Bay's bid to become the NFL's first repeat champions since Brady led New England to consecutive titles following the 2003-04 seasons.

Have the Rams also ended Brady's career?

"Truthfully, guys, I'm thinking about this game. I'm not thinking about past five minutes from now," Brady said.

Brady is under contract for 2022 but his return isn't definite.

"I haven't put a lot of thought into it, taking it day by day," Brady said.

In late September, Brady said he plans to play at least one more season, but he indicated several times since that returning will be a family decision.

Asked last month when he'll know it's time to retire,



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady (12) reacts after being penalized during the first half of an NFL divisional round playoff football game against the Los Angeles Rams Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022, in Tampa, Fla.

Brady said:

"That's a good question. I don't know. I think I'll have to just, after every year, think about what the situation looks like for me, personally and professionally. Obviously, I love playing; I don't think my love will go away. I think I'll be able to do it, it's just the other things are kind of happening in my life, in regard to family situations. My kids are not getting younger, and I want to make sure that they get what they need, too."

Brady's agent, Don Yee, told The Associated Press last week he doesn't know when Brady will hang it up.

"He can do it as long as he wants, because his intangibles

really are very much off the charts," Yee said for an upcoming episode of the AP Pro Football Podcast. "I've been around professional athletes since 1974 and I've seen a lot of different types of athletes. And I think all the very best will tell you the intangible part is critical. There are a lot of great, physical specimens, but to keep trying to do something for a long period of time and to do it well, you have to have other intangibles. ... you have to want to get up every morning to be great."

"And so he still possesses all of that and more. And so I don't. ... It's going to be his decision, and I would never, ever speak on his behalf on this is-

sue. But he clearly is still performing very well."

Brady was playing at an elite level until running into the Rams. He didn't complete a pass on his first two drives for the first time in his 47 playoff starts, going 0 for 4.

He got called for the first unsportsmanlike penalty of his career in the first half for arguing a call after a hit busted his lip.

"He got in my face in an aggressive manner and used abusive language," referee Shawn Hochuli told a pool reporter about flagging Brady. "As for the hit, we did not think that it rose to the level of roughing the passer."

Brady misfired on several

passes, had two turnovers and was sacked three times. But his 55-yard touchdown pass to Mike Evans with just over three minutes left got the Buccaneers within 27-20.

After the Rams lost their fourth fumble, Brady drove Tampa to the tying score as Leonard Fournette ran in from the 9.

But defensive breakdowns allowed Matthew Stafford to lead the Rams in position to win it.

Brady finished 30 of 54 for 329 yards and one TD, but the offense got going far too late.

Brady overcame losing two of his top three receivers, Chris Godwin and Antonio Brown, and top two running backs, Fournette and Ronald Jones, down the stretch and didn't need them last week against Philadelphia. But losing All-Pro right tackle Tristan Wirfs last week was a huge problem Sunday. Though Fournette returned this week, the Bucs had no answer for Aaron Donald, Von Miller and L.A.'s ferocious rushers without Wirfs.

After leading the Buccaneers to their second Super Bowl title in his first season in Tampa after 20 years with New England, Brady led the NFL in yards passing (5,316), touchdowns (43), completions (485) and attempts (719) while guiding the Bucs to their first NFC South title since 2007.

Coach Bruce Arians told the

Tampa Bay Times on Friday that he would be "shocked" if Brady didn't return for another season based on the fun he's having playing the game and practicing all week.

After the loss to Los Angeles, Arians said the decision is "up to Tom."

Rob Ninkovich, who played with Brady on the Patriots from 2009-16, created a stir this week when he said it "wouldn't surprise" him if Brady called it quits after this season.

"Tom is playing at a high level. I'll leave it at that," Buccaneers offensive coordinator Byron Leftwich said Thursday in response to a question about Ninkovich's comments.

Every player asked about Brady said they want him back, of course.

"I'm super appreciative he came to Tampa," Evans said. "He's the best player who ever played the game. ... He's self-motivated. He knows what he wants. Hopefully we get him back next year."

Brady is the NFL's all-time leader in many categories, including yards passing (84,520) and TDs (624). He's the only player to win more than five Super Bowls and was MVP of the game five times.

Brady led the Patriots back from a 28-3 deficit to beat Atlanta in the Super Bowl following the 2016 season. His defense didn't give him a chance at the end to do it again.

## Even winning coach Andy Reid questions NFL's overtime setup

By **BARRY WILNER**  
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Even the winning coach, in this case Andy Reid, is questioning the NFL's overtime setup.

One day after Reid's Chiefs won the OT coin toss, then marched downfield for Travis Kelce's 8-yard touchdown reception to end an epic divisional round game with Buffalo, Reid recognized how fortunate Kansas City was.

"I had a chance to talk with Sean afterward," Reid said of Bills coach Sean McDermott, "and that I'm sure is something they're going to look at again, too. And I wouldn't be opposed to it — it's a hard thing. It was great for us last night, but is it great for the game which is the most important thing we should all be looking out for? To make things equal, it probably needs to be able to hit both offenses, both defenses."

That never happened Sunday, and it has not happened much in the playoffs since the current rules were adopted in 2010 for the postseason, 2012 for the regular schedule. Under those guidelines for the

playoffs:

- Teams play 15-minute periods until there's a winner.
- A touchdown or safety on the first possession wins the game.
- If the score is tied after each team's first possession, either because neither scored or each kicked a field goal, the next score will win the game.
- There are no coach's challenges with all reviews being initiated by the replay official.

In 11 playoff games that went to overtime, including the first in a Super Bowl when the Patriots beat the Falcons with a touchdown on the first possession in 2017, the team that gets the ball first has won 10 — seven with opening-drive TDs.

Indeed, the only loss in that span was by the New Orleans Saints in the NFC championship game for 2018, when officials blew a blatant pass interference and illegal hit penalty on Rams defensive back Nickell Robey-Coleman late in regulation. The folks in the Big Easy insist that overtime never should have occurred.

Overall in the regular season and playoffs, the team that gets

the ball first is 88-65-10, with 35 opening-drive touchdowns, according to Sportradar. So the imbalance isn't as profound as in the postseason.

Reid knows both sides of overtime outcomes. In the AFC title game for the 2018 season, Kansas City rallied to force the extra period. But New England won the toss, and Tom Brady marched his team downfield against an exhausted defense for a winning TD.

This time, Reid was in a better spot after Bills quarterback Josh Allen called tails and heads came up.

"We should never let a football game be determined from a coin," Bills left tackle Dion Dawkins said. "Like I think that's the most craziest rule in sports. Like, you can fight your entire fight the whole game, and then the game comes down to a 50-50 chance of a coin toss. Like, this ain't Vegas. Like, we're not at the casino table. Like, this ain't no 50-50 bet and there ain't even no 50-50 bet. And it's just crazy that that was the outcome."

Those who support the cur-

rent system stress that the defense needs to make a stop, and if it can't then it gets what it deserves. The opposite viewpoint asks: Why shouldn't both teams' defenses be put in that position?

Might changes be coming? The NFL's powerful competition committee, which makes proposals for rules changes, has gone into, well, overtime on the topic through the years. If a team, say Buffalo, or several teams bring it up, with specific suggestions for alterations, the committee will consider them. Should those ideas seem worthy, a proposal would be made to the 32 owners at the league meetings in late March.

For now, though, players, coaches and fans have to live with what's on the books. Not that it helps Dawkins and the Bills.

"It shouldn't be a race, like, the first guy to touch that wall wins," Dawkins said. "Like, come on now ... but that's what we're dealt with now. So I don't want to make an excuse for it. But hopefully it'll change. Hopefully, it'll change."

## Panthers bring McAdoo on as offensive coordinator

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** (AP)—The Carolina Panthers agreed to terms with former New York Giants head coach Ben McAdoo to become their next offensive coordinator on Monday.

The Associated Press reported last week that the team has settled on McAdoo to replace Joe Brady, who was fired late in the regular season with the offense struggling to produce points.

McAdoo has 15 years of NFL coaching experience, including two seasons (2016-17) as the Giants head coach. He previously worked as the Giants offensive coordinator alongside Eli Manning and as the Green Bay Packers quarterbacks coach with Aaron Rodgers. The Giants passing offense finished in the top 10 in the league in its two seasons with McAdoo as coordinator.

McAdoo spent this past season with the Dallas Cowboys working as a consultant.

Panthers coach Matt Rhule, who is 10-23 in two seasons in Carolina, and McAdoo have both worked with former Giants coach Tom Coughlin in the past.

The 44-year-old McAdoo becomes the first assistant coach Rhule has hired to his staff with NFL head coaching experience.

McAdoo replaces Brady, who was considered a rising star in the coaching ranks when arrived in Carolina after helping LSU win a national championship as the Tigers' passing game coordinator. But Brady's lack of experience at the NFL level proved costly, and he and Rhule often didn't see eye to eye with their offensive philosophies.

The Panthers finished 30th in the league in offense and went 5-12.

McAdoo inherits a shaky quarterback situation.

Sam Darnold struggled last season and Cam Newton was 0-5 as a starter. Darnold is under contract next season, while Newton will be an unrestricted free agent.

It's expected the Panthers will make a push to sign an experienced NFL quarterback or possibly trade for one this offseason in an effort to upgrade the position. Carolina also holds the sixth pick in the draft.



# Nadal fends off Shapovalov, advances to semis in Australia



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Rafael Nadal held off Denis

Shapovalov 6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 3-6, 6-3 in four hours to reach the Australian Open semifinals for the seventh time and keep his bid on track for a men's-record 21st Grand Slam singles title.

Nadal shares the record of 20 with Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic for most singles titles in men's tennis majors. Neither of those two are in Melbourne.

Nadal was dominant for the first 2 1/2 sets against No. 14 Shapovalov, but appeared to be hampered at times by a stomach problem in the third and fourth sets.

At a tournament where he's clinched the title only once (2009) and lost seven of his previous 13 quarterfinals — by far his worst conversion rate at any of the four major tournaments — Nadal suddenly looked vulnerable.

But following a seven-minute break between the last point of the fourth set and his first serve in the fifth, he recovered sufficiently to hold and then break Shapovalov's serve for a 2-0 lead in the decider.

He held onto the break and when he clinched the match, Nadal went to the corner and nodded his head a few times and did a subdued fist-pumping celebration. Then he went back on court and properly celebrated. Shapovalov left a shattered racket on the court.

"I was completely destroyed. Tough day. Very



Rafael Nadal of Spain plays a forehand return to Denis Shapovalov of Canada during their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022.

warm," Nadal said. "At the beginning of the match I was playing great (but) Denis is very talented, very aggressive. He was serving huge — especially the second serve.

"I think I had my chances at beginning of the third. I didn't get it. I started to feel a little bit more tired. For me, it's amazing to be in the semifinals."

The men's semifinals are both scheduled for Friday, giving Nadal two days off.

"I'm not 21 anymore!" he said. "After this . . . great to have two days off."

"I felt quite good physically in terms of movement. At least it was a great test. I really believe I'm going to be ready for the semifinals."

Nadal will play either sev-

enth-seeded Matteo Berrettini or No. 17 Gael Monfils. Berrettini was a Wimbledon runner-up last year; Monfils is 35 and contesting his second quarterfinal in 17 trips to Australia.

Madison Keys continued her resurgent 2022 season by reaching the semifinals in Australia for the first time

since 2015 with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over French Open champion Barbora Krejickova.

And resurgent might be a major understatement.

The 1-hour, 25-minute win over Krejickova contained 11 aces, 27 winners and just one dropped service game and was her 10th win in a row and

11th of the new year.

That includes five wins so far at Melbourne Park, starting with a straight-sets victory over 2020 Australian Open winner Sofia Kenin, plus five in winning the Adelaide International — her first title since 2019 — and one at an earlier Melbourne tournament.

She only won 11 matches in 2021, saying she was focusing too heavily on results, and her year-end ranking slumped to 56th. It was the first time since 2014 she'd finished outside the Top 20.

"I did everything I could to rest this off-season and focus on starting fresh and new . . . starting from zero and not focusing on last year," Keys said in her on-court interview. "I think it's going well so far!"

She lost an Australian Open semifinal to Serena Williams in 2015, her first trip to the final four at a major. She reached the final at the 2017 U.S. Open and semis at Roland Garros and the U.S. Open in 2018, but hadn't made it back to the last four in a Grand Slam since then.

The feeling in Melbourne will be vastly different. She

could be facing either top-ranked Ash Barty, an Australian, or fellow American Jessica Pegula.

"I'm seven years older and it's not my first semifinal of a Slam," she said. "I think I'm a little bit more prepared this time around than I was all those years ago."

Krejickova took a medical timeout while trailing 5-2 in the first set from what might have been heat stress, and appeared to be lethargic at times during the 35-minute second set.

Temperatures was peaking toward 32 degrees Celsius (90 Fahrenheit) under almost cloudless skies.

"It was the heat with some physical conditions that started to bother me after five games," Krejickova, who is still playing in the doubles draw, said. "I mean, from there on, you know, I just couldn't put it together."

"I have been struggling with something. Yes, it was happening and I didn't feel good. I just don't want to talk about it because I think Madison, she really deserves the win and she really deserves to get the credit."

## MOSHE

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time of 43:05, while Nagisa Litulumar capped a Tsunami Saipan sweep by taking third at 43:10.

"It was really fun and I really enjoyed it. I really enjoyed it with my teammates. The enjoyable part was coming here and having to overcome this and complete this," said Batallones after the race.

Unlike other who felt the swell at the Saipan lagoon, she said she had a relatively pleasant swim.

"The weather was OK. The water was cold and the current was very light. I saw a starfish and it was really cool."

Results of the masters divisions of the Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K will be published in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

The Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K was sponsored by the following: Law Office of Janet King, Kerri Bauer Yoga, Aqua Resort Club, Hibiscus Salon, Cha Cafe and Bistro, I Love Saipan Store, Mango Six, Zeno Corp., Aquasmith, Seawind, Sheila Mabutas, and Hardt Eye Clinic.

## VELORIA

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The fast runners Veloria probably were referring to were Keith Ketola, Shuji Kuroda, Kosuke Sato, and youth sensation Dev Bachani.

A check with Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. revealed that Ketola couldn't make it due to prior commitments, Kuroda had work in the morning, and Sato didn't do trail runs. Bachani did sign up but was a no-show during the event.

Jay-ar Equia Barrios finished second to Veloria in the men's open with a time of 25:31, while Ronald Villafria wasn't far behind in third place at 25:43.

Barrios said he enjoyed the Dash & Splash because it was different and it beats running in concrete. He added that the

tough part of the course was its up-and-down terrain that included large holes.

"I haven't been running a lot lately. In fact, this was just my fourth run of the year. I took it easy for a month," he said in Filipino.

Villafria, for his part, said his unfamiliarity with the inaugural Dash & Splash course was the biggest challenge.

"It was hard to get a feel of the route because you don't know when to speed up or slowdown. So, I just maintained my speed the whole time," he also said in Filipino.

Among the women, top runner Evelyn Pangelinan, who came in at 27:56, said the Dash & Splash was a nice event to kick off the 2022 running calendar.

"It was a fun experience to start the year. My first time doing the Lao Lao trail. I normally do Beach Road,



Batallones

so a trail run was refreshing and the inclines were a bit of a challenge. Overall fun, because my running team from the [Christmas] Island Relay joined," he said.

Save for a few brave souls who took a dip at East Bay, Pangelinan said she demurred out of fear.

"I was afraid to dive in. Perhaps another time."

Rosemarie Chisato came in second in the women's division with a time of 28:35.

She said she thoroughly enjoyed the Dash & Splash specially because her Run Saipan teammates were with her.

"It was a bit of a hard course because of the many inclines."

Women's third place winner Jessica Ortizo echoed Chisato when she said, "It was super fun. It's just like running with friends and

family." Ortizo ran the race in 29:48.

Dela Cruz congratulated the winners and all the participants of the inaugural Dash & Splash. He volunteered that he was pleasantly surprised that not the usual suspects showed up in Run Saipan's first running event of the year.

"I am not surprised with the Top 3 men and woman. When we decided on the race course I was thinking only the most dedicated runners will make the drive down to Lao Lao Bay to start the year with us with a tough trail race. This is a testament to all their hard work they have been putting into running since joining us last year. To see them get faster, excel, and grow is truly a privilege. Congratulations to all our runners for conquering Lao Lao Bay trail run."

## VILLACRUSIS

From Page 20

my last collegiate swim meet. There are still protocols actually. Mostly just wearing masks during our meets," he said.

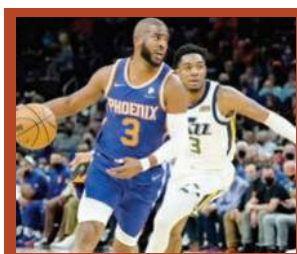
Villacrusis said he'd like to dedicate his performance in the meet against Willamette University last weekend to friends and family back home.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Christian Villacrusis said he's proud to be part of history following George Fox University's sweep of Willamette University last weekend.





Booker, Paul  
lead Suns past  
depleted Jazz,  
115-109  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Villacrusis helps George Fox make history

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Christian Villacrusis helped both the men's and women's swimming teams of George Fox University sweep Willamette University in their head-to-head last Saturday at the CPRD Aquatic Center in Newberg, Oregon.

The 21-year-old former Saipan Swim Club star won the 100m freestyle in 52.20 and was second in the 50m freestyle. It was the first time George Fox, an NCAA Division III school with a relatively young swimming program, swept Willamette.

Villacrusis, who is trying out for the CNMI National Triathlon Team for this year's Pacific Mini Games in the CNMI, was overjoyed with his performance in the meet against Willamette.

"I was pretty happy with my performance in both the 50m freestyle and 100m freestyle. We were all swimming tired because we actually had an away meet the night before, but we did great as a team," he told *Saipan Tribune* in a social

media message.

Villacrusis said he's proud to be part of history following his school's sweep of Willamette.

"It is considered historic because this is the first time both the men's and women's teams won against Willamette," he said.

Asked how's the 2021-2022 swimming season shaping up, Villacrusis said there's nothing to complain about especially during the era of COVID-19.

"The swim season is also great. It is only our fourth year as a team and the program has been growing ever since I first joined in 2018. Training is going great as well. We are preparing for our conference meet in February. This will be

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Christian Villacrusis, seen here in a file photo, won the 100m freestyle and was second in the 50m freestyle to help George Fox University sweep Willamette University in their head-to-head last Saturday at the CPRD Aquatic Center in Newberg, Oregon.

## Moshe, Maria top U14 class in Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Moshe Sikkell proved as equally adept in the water as he is in land, while Maria Batallones beat girls much older than her in Saipan Swim Club's Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K last Saturday.

Sikkell topped the boys

14-and-under division of the 3-kilometer race from Pau Pau Beach to the Tanapag boat ramp with a time of 37:16. He was followed closely by fellow SSC swimmer Michael Miller at 37:17, while Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center's Kouki Watanabe completed the Top 3 with his 37:44.

After edging Miller in the lung-busting swim, Sikkell had time to appreciate the ocean swim, large swells and the cold water and all.

"It was a close race and the water was really cold."

As a consolation of sorts, the 12th grader at Saipan International School said he saw a stingray during

the swim.

Asked what he loves more swimming or running, Sikkell said he preferred the latter.

"I'd prefer running because it's not as cold," he said with a wry smile, as his father, SSC coach Richard, was perhaps within earshot.

It can be recalled that Sikkell won the middle school division of the 2021 PSS/NMA Cross Country Championships last October at the old Saipan Country Club golf course behind Saipan Vegas.

The younger Sikkell then said having your father coach your swim team has its pros and cons, but one thing has always been consistent: "He expects the same for all of us," he said.

Batallones finished first in the girls 14-and-under but her time of 37:56 was good enough for second best in the open division. Coming in second to the 13-year-old student from Hopwood High school was Kaya Braxton with her

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## Veloria: Absence of competition made it fun



By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Sildrey Veloria dominated the men's division of Run Saipan's Splash & Dash in Lao Lao Bay last Saturday.

The 19-year-old freshman at Northern Marianas College said he's glad that he could set the pace for a change due to the absence of some of the "heavy" hitters in the local running community.

"It was a lot of fun be-



cause the competition wasn't that heavy. I got to go at my own pace and the trail was a lot of fun because it was my first time running it," he told *Saipan Tribune* after running the 5K trail route in 24:45.

Asked about what he meant about the competition not being heavy, Veloria said: "Some of the fast runners wasn't able to make it to the competition so that's why I said it wasn't that heavy."

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MARK RABAGO  
Moshe Sikkell, left, and Michael Miller emerge from the surf near the Tanapag boat ramp in Saipan Swim Club's Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K last Saturday.